STORY BY KYO SHIRODAIRA ART BY CHASHIBA KATASE

IN/SPECTRE

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IN/SPECTRE
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CHAPTER 9: "DUELING FICTIONS"

I WILL STOP AT NOTHING TO WIN THIS.
I WILL PUT ALL OF MY POWER INTO THESE LIES.
THE COMMITTEE TO CONQUER STEEL LADY NANASE IS NOW IN SESSION.
TKKA
TKKA
TKKA
TKKA-TK
TKKA-TK-TK
Steel Lady Nanase really

タ
TEP
TEP
タ
タン
TMP
カ
CLICK
ッ

WHOOM
<607> Name: kuebiko 09/04 22:15 ID:Mmimn43
Does Steel Lady Nanase really exist?
WHSH
ドドドドカッ
KA-KA-KAPOW
ぱらっ
PATTER
ぱら
PATTER
ゴキッ
SNAP
WHOOSH
Maybe she only exists as a made-up phantom imagined by some charlatan for a hoax.
Maybe she's really just an urban legend.

POW
SAKI-SAN.
PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU NOTICE ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN KURÔ-SENPAI'S FIGHTING.
TKKA
TKKA
OKAY.
SO FAR HE'S MANAGED TO KEEP HER BUSY WITHOUT HAVING TO GET HIMSELF KILLED.

WHAM
カ
ニッ
CLICK
FWOOM
GRGHLE!
ポッ
POP

<608> Name: kuebiko 09/04 22:16 ID:Mmimn43
Up until yesterday, all the reports of Steel Lady Nanase were along the lines of, "I was attacked," "I saw her," "Someone told me she attacked them," etc. There were new rumors and witness reports practically every day, but they were no different from the average urban legend.

COUGH!
ズ ZH
ズ ZH
パッ POP
CRUNCH!
But today's report was very different.
A detective named Terada was murdered by someone assumed to be Steel Lady Nanase.
IT HAPPENED IN MAKURAZAKA CITY LATE LAST NIGHT.
THEY SAY THAT HE TOOK A HIT DIRECTLY TO THE FACE, BUT THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT HE HAD FOUGHT BACK.
THE POLICE HAVE STATED THAT THE FACIAL INJURY WAS THE CAUSE OF DEATH.
Tokunosuke Terada
Active Duty Detective Found Dea
FOR SOMEONE OF HIS MASSIVE BULK AND JUDO TRAINING,
DETECTIVE TERADA WAS KILLED WITH ASTOUNDING EASE.

INDEED, HE MUST HAVE BEEN BEATEN TO DEATH BY THE STEEL BEAM OF THE GHOSTLY STEEL LADY NANASE...
...OR HE NEVER COULD HAVE BEEN SLAIN IN SUCH A FASHION.
TAP TAP TAP
CLICK
KZH ZH
POP

<607> Name: kuebiko 09/04 22:15 ID:MmimnH3
Does Steel Lady Nanase really exist?

Maybe she only exists as a made-up phantom imagined by some charlatan for a hoax.
Maybe she's really just an urban legend.

<608> Name: kuebiko 09/04 22:16 ID:MmimnH3
Up until yesterday, all the reports of Steel Lady Nanase were along the lines of, "I was attacked," "I saw her," "Someone told me she attacked them," etc. There were n rumors and witness reports practically every day, but they were no different from the average urban legend.
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A detective named Terada was murdered by someone assumed to be Steel Lady Nanase.

<609> Name: kuebiko 09/04 22:16 ID:MmimnH3
It happened in Makurazaka City late last night. They say that he took a hit directly to the face, but showed no signs of having fought back. The police have stated that the facial injury was the cause of death.

For someone of Detective Terada's massive bulk and judo training, he was killed astoundingly easily.
Indeed, he must have been beaten to death by the steel beam of the ghostly Steel Lady Nanase, or he never could have been slain in such a fashion.

Indeed, he must have been beaten to death by the steel beam of the ghostly Steel Lady Nanase, or he never could have been slain in such a fashion.

<610> Name: Withheld by Request 09/04 22:18 ID:mvtgfdx
Yeah. Which means Steel Lady Nanase did it, right?

TAP
TAP
ZSHH
"NO,
THAT'S JUST WHAT THE KILLER WANTS US TO THINK."
No, that's
what the killer
wants us to think
Z-ZSH
ZSH
"THAT IS EXACTLY WHY THE KILLER NEEDED STEEL LADY NANASE.
TO MURDER DETECTIVE TERADA, THE PERPETRATOR..."
鋼人七瀬まとめサイ
STEEL LADY NANASE WIKI

<610> Name: Withheld by Request 09/04
Yeah. Which means Steel Lady Nanase

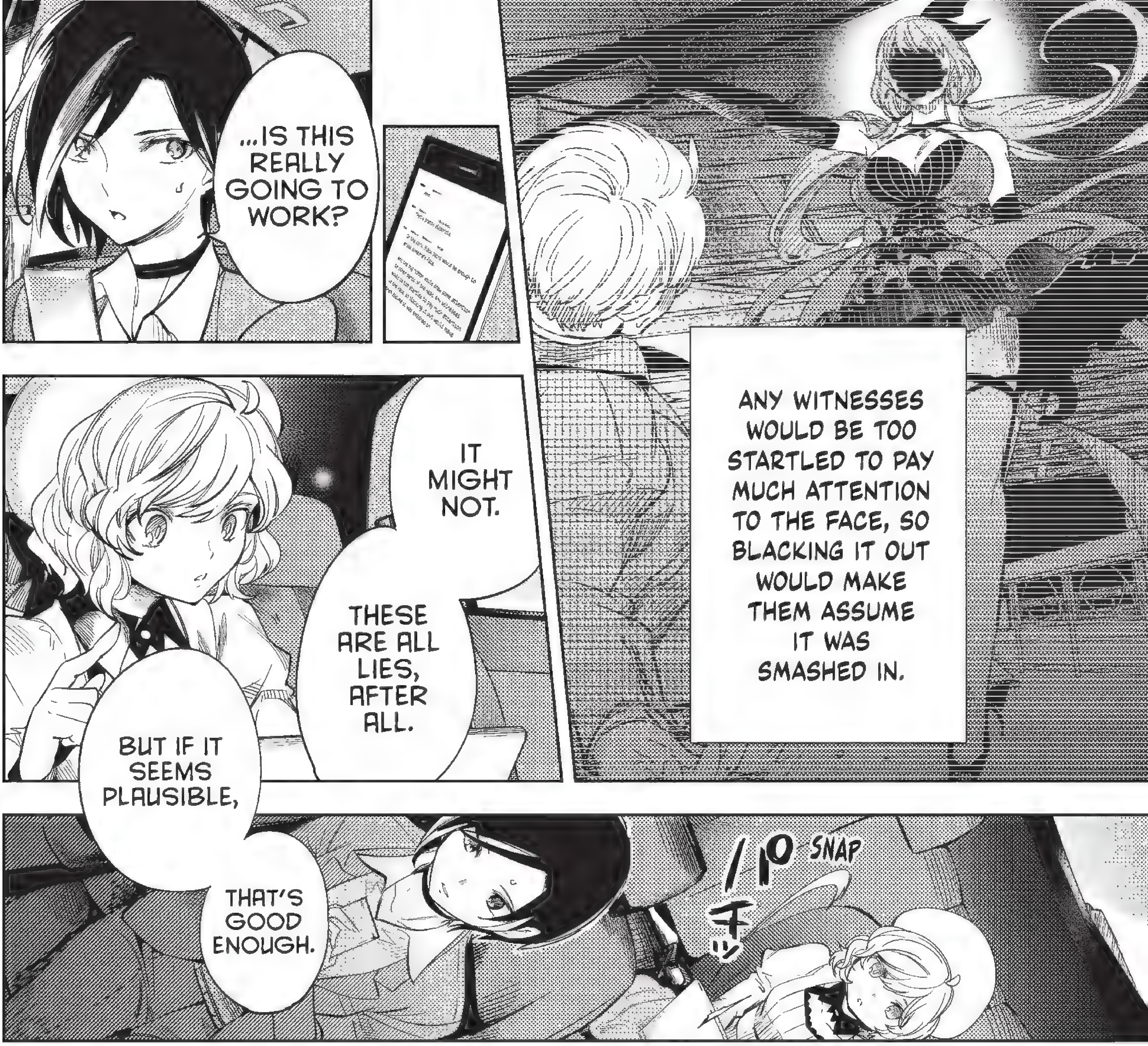
<611> Name: kuebiko 09/04 22:18 I.D:Mmimn
No, that's just what the killer wants us t
exactly why the killer needed s
ately
To murder Detective Ter ased. The urban

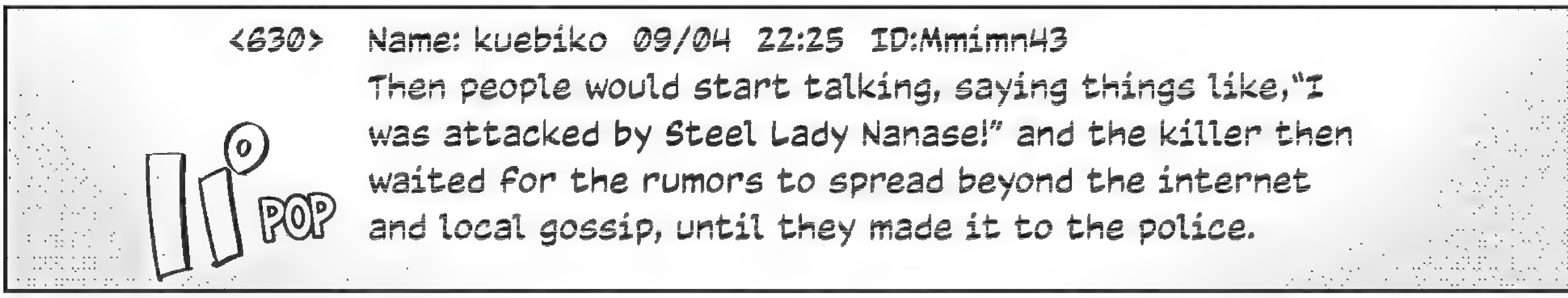
"...DELIBERATELY INVENTED A FAKE GHOST—ONE THAT NEVER EXISTED:"
"THE URBAN LEGEND THAT IS STEEL LADY NANASE."

NOW...
HOW MANY OF THEM ARE GOING TO BUY THIS?
Z-ZSH
KZH
ZH

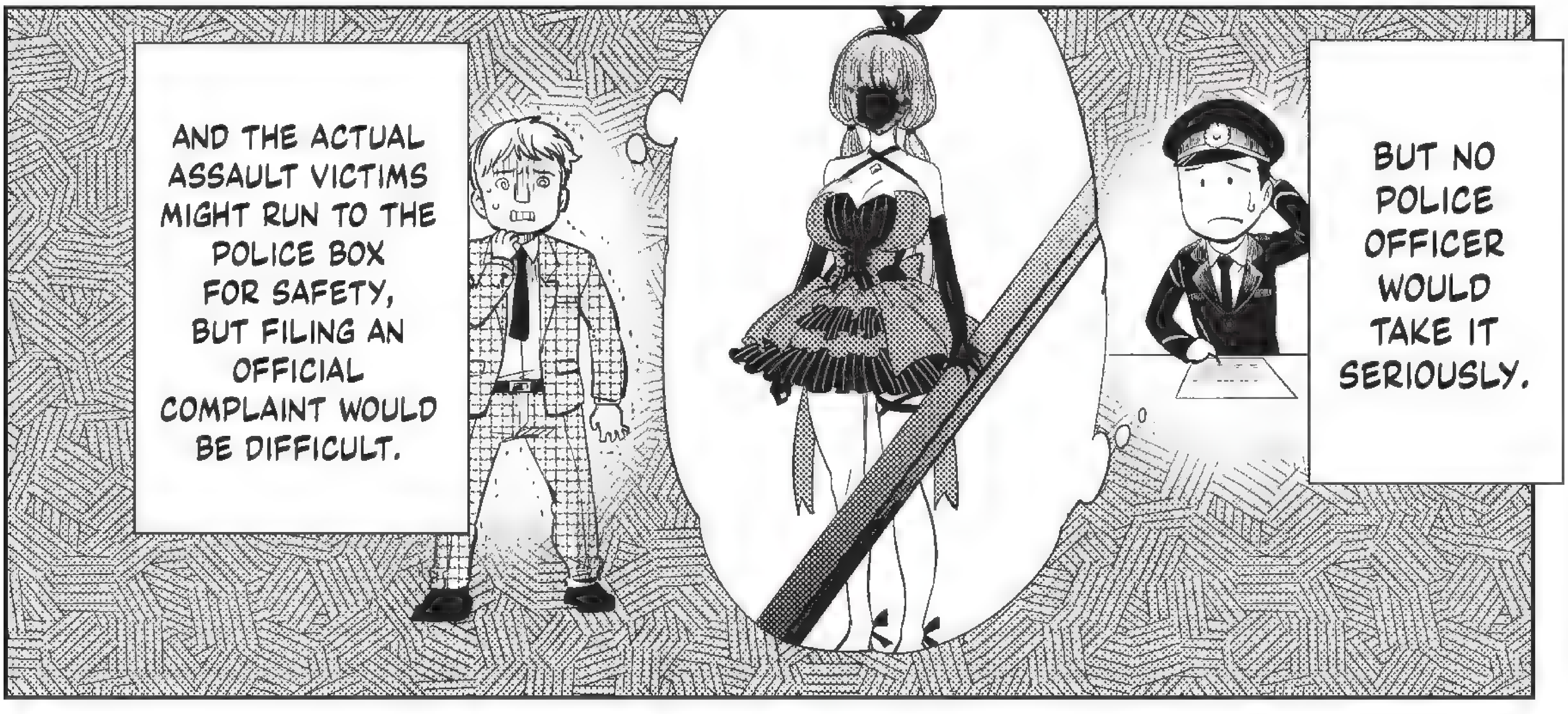
"DETECTIVE TERADA WAS A MODEL DETECTIVE."
HE KEPT A WATCHFUL EYE OUT FOR ANY CHANGES IN HIS CITY, AND WAS QUICK TO DISCOVER ANY HINT OF A CRIME.
HE WAS SO GOOD THAT HE WAS ABLE TO RECOGNIZE A POTENTIALLY BIG CASE BEFORE IT GOT OUT OF HAND."
"THE KILLER USED THAT TO THEIR ADVANTAGE."
Have you heard about Steel Lady Nanase? Everybody's talking about her.
You mean that story about Karin Nanase's ghost appearing in Makurazaka? And her face is smashed in like it was in the accident, and she's dragging around a steel beam?
I've been hearing about her a lot. We have our very own urban legend out here in the co
Because it's rum
"THE KILLER FOUND THE CORNER OF THE INTERNET WHERE THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT THE MONSTER OF MAKURAZAKA,
AND USED THE URBAN LEGEND OF STEEL LADY NANASE TO COMMIT A SERIES OF REAL-LIFE ATTEMPTED ASSAULTS."

NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, THE PERPETRATOR ATTACKED PEOPLE WHILE WEARING A COSTUME THAT DREW ON ALL OF STEEL LADY NANASE'S FEATURES.
OF COURSE, THEY HAD NO INTENTION OF REALLY HURTING ANYONE—THEY ONLY MEANT TO SCARE THEM.
THEY MADE A GIRDER OUT OF WOOD OR STYROFOAM, AND RECREATED HER CONSPICUOUS BOSOM WITH SOME KIND OF PADDING.
IN THE DARK, BLACK PAINT WOULD BE ENOUGH TO ERASE SOMEONE'S FACE.
AND THE BIG RIBBON WOULD DRAW SOME ATTENTION TO OTHER PARTS OF THE HEAD.


ANY WITNESSES WOULD BE TOO STARTLED TO PAY MUCH ATTENTION TO THE FACE, SO BLACKING IT OUT WOULD MAKE THEM ASSUME IT WAS SMASHED IN.
...IS THIS REALLY GOING TO WORK?
IT MIGHT NOT.
THESE ARE ALL LIES, AFTER ALL.
BUT IF IT SEEMS PLAUSIBLE,
THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH.
パチッ SNAP



<630> Name: kuebiko 09/04 22:25 ID:Mmimn43
Then people would start talking, saying things like,"I was attacked by Steel Lady Nanase!" and the killer then waited for the rumors to spread beyond the internet and local gossip, until they made it to the police.


AND THE ACTUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS MIGHT RUN TO THE POLICE BOX FOR SAFETY, BUT FILING AN OFFICIAL COMPLAINT WOULD BE DIFFICULT.
BUT NO POLICE OFFICER WOULD TAKE IT SERIOUSLY.

NEVERTHELESS, THIS WOULD FORM A PATTERN OF SUSPICIOUS INCIDENTS IN OUR BRAVE DETECTIVE'S CITY. SURELY, HE WOULD TRY TO FIND OUT WHAT'S BEHIND THEM.
BUILDING: MAKURAZAKA POLICE STATION
STEEL LADY NANASE AGAIN? THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THESE CASES...
KA-CHAK
SO DETECTIVE TERADA WAS ON THE MOVE.
STILL, IT'S NOT LIKE HE BELIEVED IN GHOSTS.
MAYBE SOMEONE IS PRETENDING TO BE THIS "MONSTER OF URBAN LEGEND."
THEY'RE USING STEEL LADY NANASE IN SOME SORT OF PLOT.
BASED ON ALL THE WORK THAT'S GOING INTO IT,
THIS CAN'T BE JUST SOME PRACTICAL JOKE. THEY MUST HAVE SOMETHING CRIMINAL IN MIND.
FOLLOWING HIS SUSPICIONS, HE BEGAN AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION.

IF DETECTIVE TERADA STARTED TRACKING STEEL LADY NANASE INDEPENDENTLY, THE PERP COULD GET HIM TO ACT ALONE.
WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT THE KILLER WANTED.
THE DEPARTMENT DIDN'T SEE ANY THREAT AT THIS POINT, AND HE WOULD BE INVESTIGATING THE GHOST OF AN IDOL.
HE COULDN'T TAKE AN OFFICER WITH HIM, AND IT WOULD BE TRICKY TO CONDUCT HIS SEARCH OUT IN THE OPEN.

"NOW THE PERP COULD GET THE DETECTIVE ALONE ANY TIME THEY WANTED."
SWISH
POP
NAME-LESS
TL;DR
THAT'S WAY TOO MANY WORDS.
ANON.
WHAT'S YOUR BASIS FOR THIS?
PA-POP
ANONY-MOUS
STEEL LADY NANASE IS REAL!
PA-POP
NAME-LESS
YOU'RE REALLY NOT THE FIRST PERSON TO SUGGEST THAT.
ANONY-MOUS
NAME-LESS
A GHOST IS THE ONLY THING THAT MAKES SENSE.
POP
ANON.
POP
NAME-LESS
LET'S HEAR THEM OUT.
SURELY THERE ARE OTHER PEOPLE HERE THAT AREN'T BUYING INTO THE GHOST THING.
KZH ZH

"THEN, THE KILLER CALLED DETECTIVE TERADA."
BRRRING
WHAT'S UP?
TERADA-SAN! I...I WAS JUST ATTACKED BY STEEL LADY NANASE!
!
SHE GOT AWAY FROM ME,
BUT SHE DROPPED HER WEAPON AND HER RIBBON.
AND THERE ARE FOOTPRINTS AT THE SCENE. I WANT YOU TO COME TAKE A LOOK.
BUT I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT WE COULD LEARN FROM THIS, SO DON'T TELL ANYONE.
AND COME ALONE.

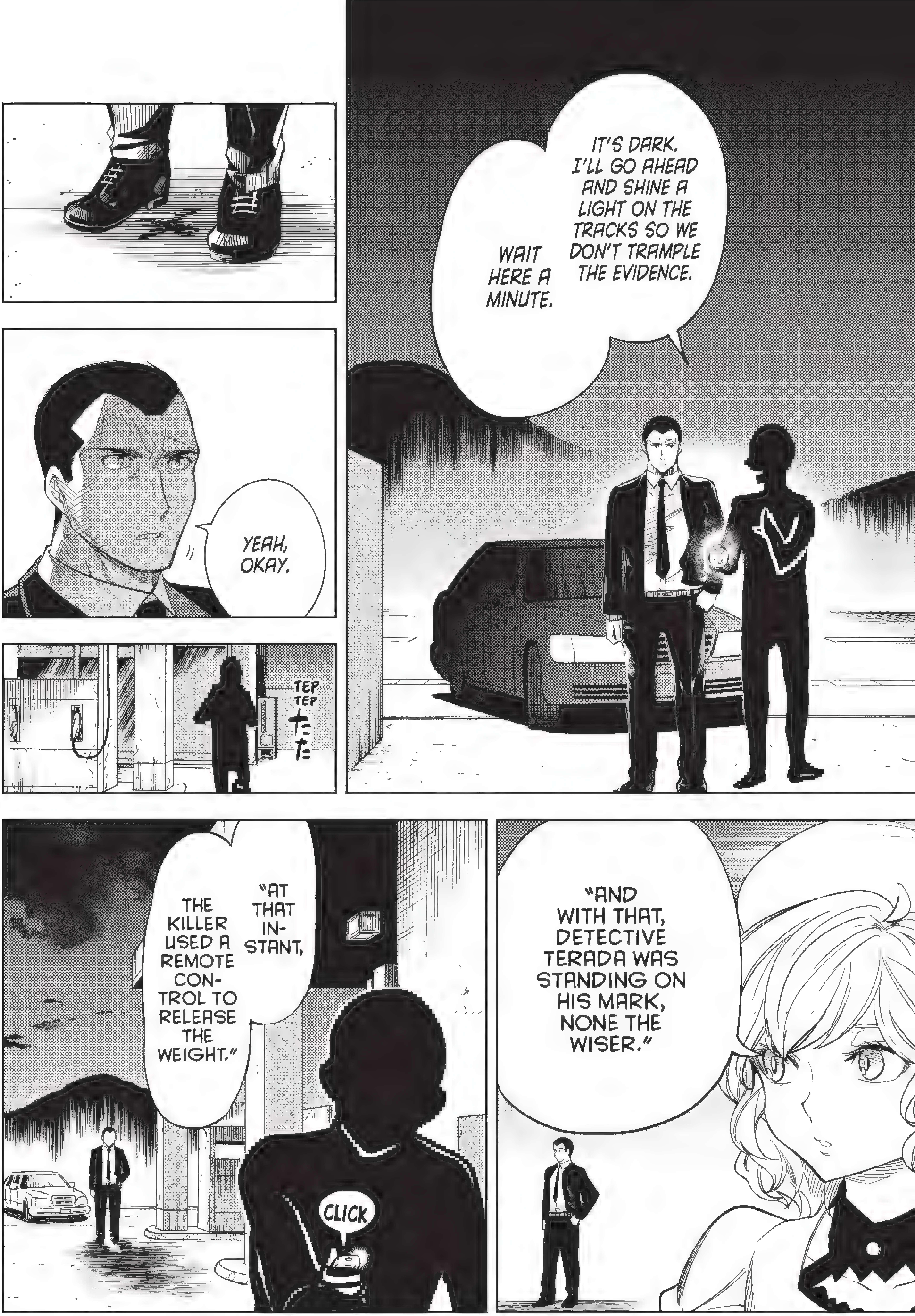
A CALL LIKE THAT WAS ENOUGH TO GET HIM TO RACE TO THE SCENE UNACCOMPANIED.
GOT IT. WHERE ARE YOU?
AND OF COURSE, THE SCENE WAS THE ABANDONED GAS STATION WHERE HE WOULD BE MURDERED.
YEAH, THAT MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN TERADA-SAN TO THE GAS STATION, BUT...
TKKA-TK
TAP

BEFORE THE DETECTIVE ARRIVED,
THE KILLER HAD SET A TRAP FOR HIM.
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
ONE THING ALL GAS STATIONS HAVE IN COMMON IS A HIGH, FLAT ROOF.
THAT'S WHERE THE KILLER SET UP A LARGE PENDULUM.
THEY ATTACHED A HOOK TO THE ROOF, AND TIED A ROPE TO IT,
WITH A WEIGHT HANGING AT THE OTHER END.

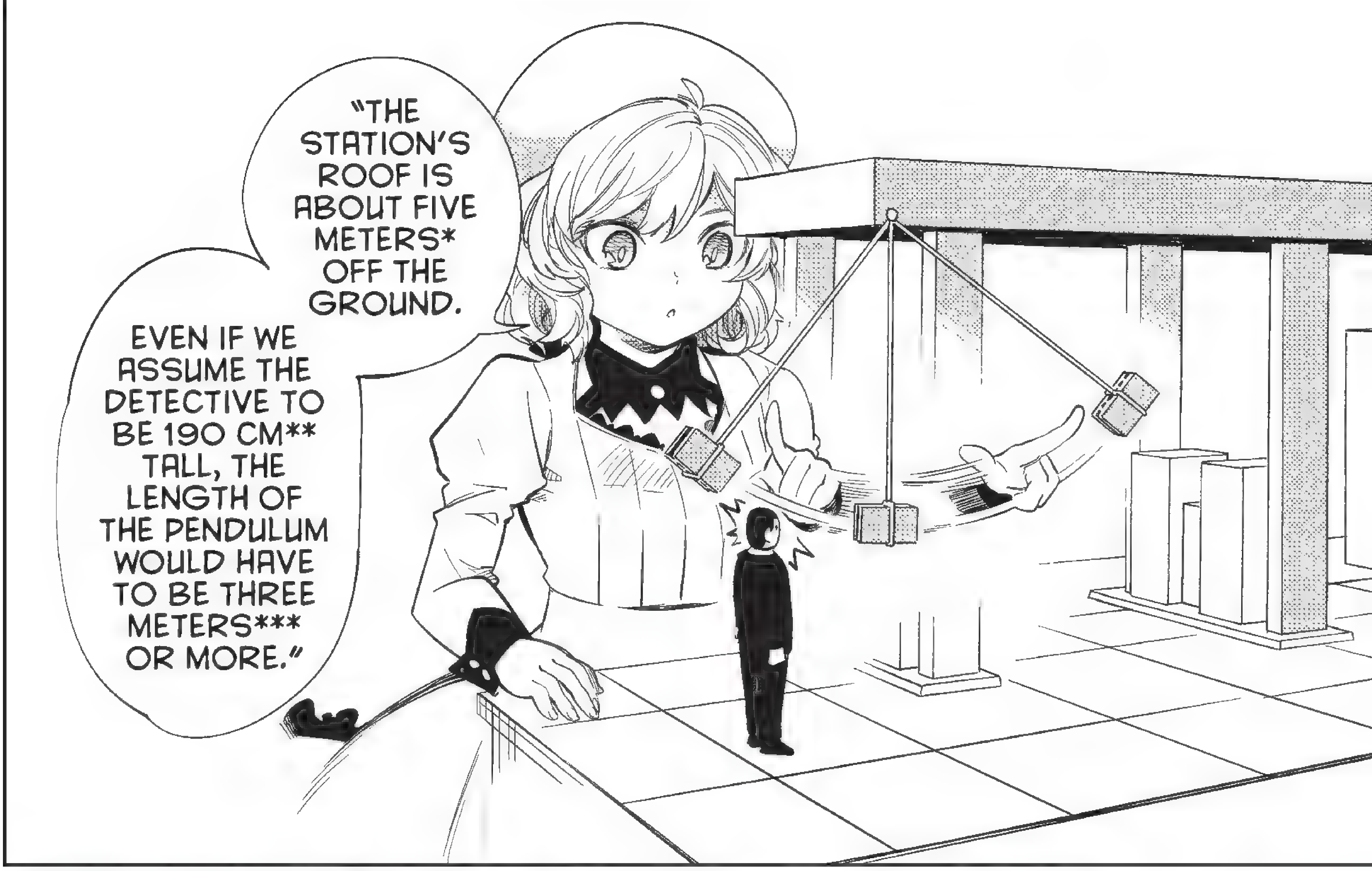
KRIK
THIS WEIGHT HAD TO BE HEAVY ENOUGH...
...TO CRUSH A PERSON'S SKULL WITH ONE SWING.
THE MURDERER HAD STUDIED DETECTIVE TERADA BEFOREHAND, AND KNEW EXACTLY WHERE THE WEIGHT HAD TO FALL.
AND WITH ALL THAT DONE, THEY COULD PULL THE ROPE ACROSS AND ATTACH THE WEIGHT...
...TO A SECOND HOOK THAT HAD BEEN ATTACHED TO THE ROOF.
BUT THIS HOOK...
...WAS DESIGNED TO BE UNLATCHED REMOTELY, AT THE PRESS OF A BUTTON.
BEE-BEEP
GWIRL

AND ONCE THE HOOK WAS RELEASED, THE WEIGHT WOULD SWING AT TREMENDOUS SPEED.
SWOOSH
but this hook was desig o be unlatched remotely, at the press of a button.
And once the hook let go, the weight would swing at tremendous speed.
TAK
(659) Name: Withheld by Request 09/04 22:38 ID:dsatg3w4
Why would anyone go to all that trouble for a murder?
TAK
TAK
(660) Name: Withheld by Request 09/04 22:38 ID:navcctr
That's pretty hardcore.
TAK
(661) Name: Withheld by Request 09/04 22:39 ID:
Can you really kill somebody like t
PA-POP
THAT'S A LOT OF WORK JUST TO KILL A PERSON...
TKKA
TKKA
TKKA
BEFORE THE KILLER SUMMONED DETECTIVE TERADA,
THEY MADE SURE THEY COULD GET HIM TO STAND IN JUST THE RIGHT SPOT.

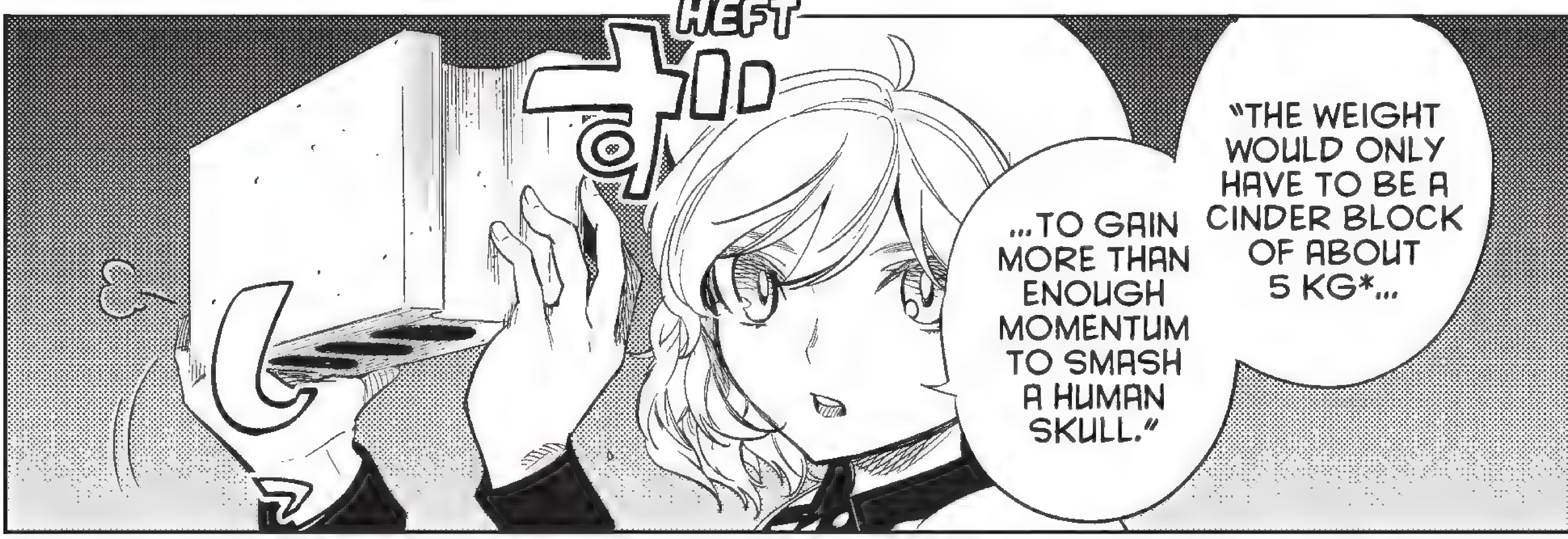
THIS WASN'T HARD TO PULL OFF.
THEY ALREADY HAD CERTAIN ITEMS THAT WERE BOUND TO ATTRACT HIS INTEREST.
THEY JUST HAD TO WAIT AT THE GAS STATION, ITEMS IN HAND,
AND WHEN DETECTIVE TERADA DROVE UP, HE WOULD STOP HIS CAR CLOSE TO THE KILLER.
THEY COULD EVEN MAKE SURE HIS PARKED CAR WAS OUT OF THE TRAP'S WAY.
TEP TEP
HERE'S THE RIBBON SHE DROPPED.
AND THE FOOTPRINTS ARE RIGHT OVER THERE.


IT'S DARK. I'LL GO AHEAD AND SHINE A LIGHT ON THE TRACKS SO WE DON'T TRAMPLE THE EVIDENCE.
WAIT HERE A MINUTE.
YEAH, OKAY.
TEP TEP
たた
"AND WITH THAT, DETECTIVE TERADA WAS STANDING ON HIS MARK, NONE THE WISER."
"AT THAT INSTANT,
THE KILLER USED A REMOTE CONTROL TO RELEASE THE WEIGHT."
CLICK

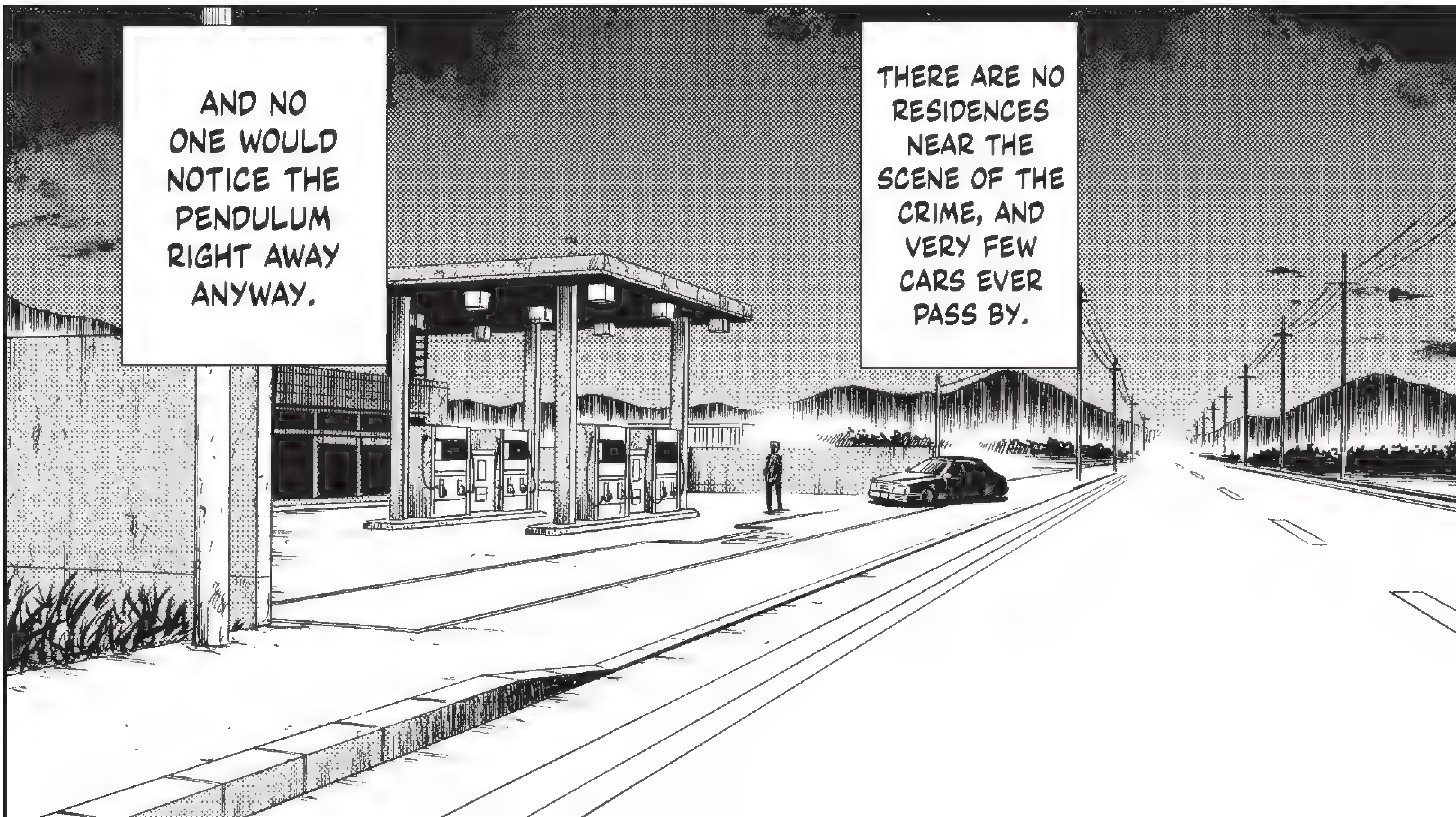
TWANG
"HANGING FROM A ROPE, THE WEIGHT ARCED THROUGH THE AIR ABOVE THE DARK GAS STATION."
"AND DETECTIVE TERADA WAS STANDING DIRECTLY IN ITS PATH. IT CRUSHED HIS SKULL IN ONE SWING."


"THE STATION'S ROOF IS ABOUT FIVE METERS* OFF THE GROUND.
EVEN IF WE ASSUME THE DETECTIVE TO BE 190 CM** TALL, THE LENGTH OF THE PENDULUM WOULD HAVE TO BE THREE METERS*** OR MORE."

* ABOUT 16′ **ABOUT 6′3″ *** ABOUT 10′


HEFT
"THE WEIGHT WOULD ONLY HAVE TO BE A CINDER BLOCK OF ABOUT 5 KG*...
...TO GAIN MORE THAN ENOUGH MOMENTUM TO SMASH A HUMAN SKULL."

*ABOUT 11 LBS.


THERE ARE NO RESIDENCES NEAR THE SCENE OF THE CRIME, AND VERY FEW CARS EVER PASS BY.
AND NO ONE WOULD NOTICE THE PENDULUM RIGHT AWAY ANYWAY.

THE GAS STATION WAS ABANDONED, AND THE ROOF WAS SHROUDED IN DARKNESS.
EVEN IF HE HAD USED HIS HEADLIGHTS OR A FLASHLIGHT TO ILLUMINATE THE AREA, HE WOULD BE FOCUSING DOWN AT HIS FEET.
HE WOULDN'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO ANYTHING OVER HIS HEAD.
DETECTIVE TERADA WOULDN'T HAVE NOTICED THE PENDULUM THAT KILLED HIM...
...UNTIL THE SECOND HE DIED.

NO, EVEN AT THE MOMENT OF HIS DEATH, HE MIGHT NOT HAVE KNOWN WHY HIS HEAD HAD CAVED IN.
...!
I SEE. SO THAT'S HOW YOU EXPLAIN THAT MYSTERY.
"THIS IS HOW THE BIG, TOUGH, MODEL DETECTIVE WAS KILLED WITHOUT A FIGHT."

"NOT EVEN THE BEST OF DETECTIVES COULD HAVE PREDICTED THAT A PENDULUM WOULD SWING AT HIM OUT OF NOWHERE."
"EVEN IF DETECTIVE TERADA WAS WARY OF HIS INFORMANT,
HE COULDN'T HAVE IMAGINED THIS MODE OF MURDER."
"HE WOULD STAND THERE DEFENSELESS WHILE THE BLOCK CRUSHED HIS SKULL."
"AFTER MURDERING DETECTIVE TERADA, THE PERPETRATOR WOULD HAVE COLLECTED THE TRAP,
ERASED ANY EVIDENCE THAT THEY'D BEEN THERE, AND LEFT THE SCENE."
"MAYBE THEY GAVE THE DETECTIVE'S HEAD ANOTHER BLOW, JUST TO BE SURE IT WAS SMASHED IN."
SMASH

FWOOM
AFTER THAT, ALL THEY HAD TO DO WAS DESTROY THE STEEL LADY NANASE COSTUME AND PROPS...
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
SPLASH
...AND DISPOSE OF THE PENDULUM.
NATIONAL HIGHWAY
ABANDONED GAS STATION
THE SCENE OF THE CRIME WAS RIGHT NEXT TO THE HIGHWAY.
WOULDN'T IT BE TOO RISKY TO COMMIT SUCH AN ELABORATE MURDER WHEN A CAR COULD DRIVE BY ANY MINUTE?
NAMELESS
POP
"THE KILLER LOOKED UP THE HIGHWAY'S TRAFFIC VOLUME BEFOREHAND,
AND WAS WELL AWARE THAT VIRTUALLY NO CARS WOULD PASS BY AT THAT TIME OF NIGHT."
12
3
6
9

SCRITCH
SCRITCH
"THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN RESEARCHING FOR MONTHS AHEAD OF TIME,
EXPERIMENTING WITH THE PENDULUM, DECIDING WHERE TO POSITION DETECTIVE TERADA, ETC."
TMP
"EVEN IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THAT A CAR DID PASS BY, IT WOULD ONLY BE A PROBLEM IF THE DRIVER WITNESSED THE ACTUAL MOMENT OF THE CRIME."
VROOM
"...MAKING SURE THAT ANY DRIVER THAT DID PASS BY ONLY SAW DETECTIVE TERADA, THE RISK WOULD BE INFINITESIMALLY SMALL."
FSH
"BUT IF THE KILLER STOOD WHERE NO ONE COULD SEE THEM FROM THE HIGHWAY..."

Criminal Investigation Division
They would have been
time, experimenting wit
to position Detective Ter
Even in the unlikely event
would only be a problem if t
actual moment of the crime.
But if the killer stood where
the highway, making sure that a
by only saw Detective
THIS IS STUPID.
CLICK
カチ
CLICK
カチ
THE DETECTIVE TOOK A LETHAL BLOW TO THE FACE.
POP
ポン
ANONY-MOUS
I DON'T CARE HOW DARK AND HARD TO SEE IT WAS.
WOULD THE KILLER REALLY THINK THAT THE BEST PLAN WOULD BE TO SET A WEIGHT UP TO HIT HIM IN THE FACE?
ANONY
ANONY-MOUS
POP
ポン
NAME-LESS
IF YOU'RE SETTING A TRAP ANYWAY, WHY NOT PLACE THE DETECTIVE IN A SPOT WHERE THE WEIGHT WOULD HIT HIM FROM BEHIND?

NAME-LESS
THE VICTIM WOULD HAVE NOTICED SOMETHING COMING AT HIS FACE. HE WOULD HAVE DODGED OR PUT UP HIS HANDS OR SOMETHING.
NAME-LESS
FIP
"THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THE KILLER THOUGHT."
"THEY SET UP THE TRAP SO THE PENDULUM WOULD HIT FROM BEHIND DIRECTLY OR AT AN ANGLE—SOME DIRECTION THE VICTIM WOULDN'T EASILY NOTICE."

"BUT DETECTIVE TERADA DID SENSE SOMETHING COMING AT HIM FROM BEHIND."
"HE MAY HAVE BEEN DEFENSELESS, BUT HE'S STILL A GOOD DETECTIVE.
PERHAPS HIS DETECTIVE'S INTUITION ALERTED HIM TO THE APPROACH OF THE LETHAL OBJECT."
OR MAYBE HE HEARD THE QUIET SOUND OF THE HOOK BEING UNLATCHED.
SO, OUT OF REFLEX, DETECTIVE TERADA TURNED TO LOOK IN THE DIRECTION OF WHATEVER WAS COMING.
THE WEIGHT SWUNG DOWN AT RAPID SPEED.
AND IT WAS DARK.
IF HE DID CATCH SIGHT OF ANYTHING,
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO LATE TO DODGE OR DEFEND.

AND THAT'S WHY HE WAS KILLED BY A DIRECT BLOW TO THE FACE.
YOU'VE THOUGHT OF EVERYTHING.
NOD
EVEN ASSUMING YOU'RE RIGHT, WAS IT A COINCIDENCE THAT HE GOT HIT IN THE FACE?
OR DID THE KILLER PLAN IT THAT WAY?
POP
ANONYMOUS
NAMELESS
"I COULDN'T SAY ONE WAY OR THE OTHER."

IF THE KILLER WANTED TO INTENTIONALLY HIT HIM FROM THE FRONT, THEN AFTER THEY RELEASED THE PENDULUM...
...THEY COULD HAVE CALLED HIS ATTENTION TOWARD THEIR LOCATION.
THEN, IF THEY MADE A SUDDEN MOVEMENT THAT POINTED TO SOMETHING BEHIND THE DETECTIVE,
THEY COULD HAVE TRICKED HIM INTO TURNING AROUND.
POP
NAME-LESS
BUT ISN'T THAT RISKY, TOO?

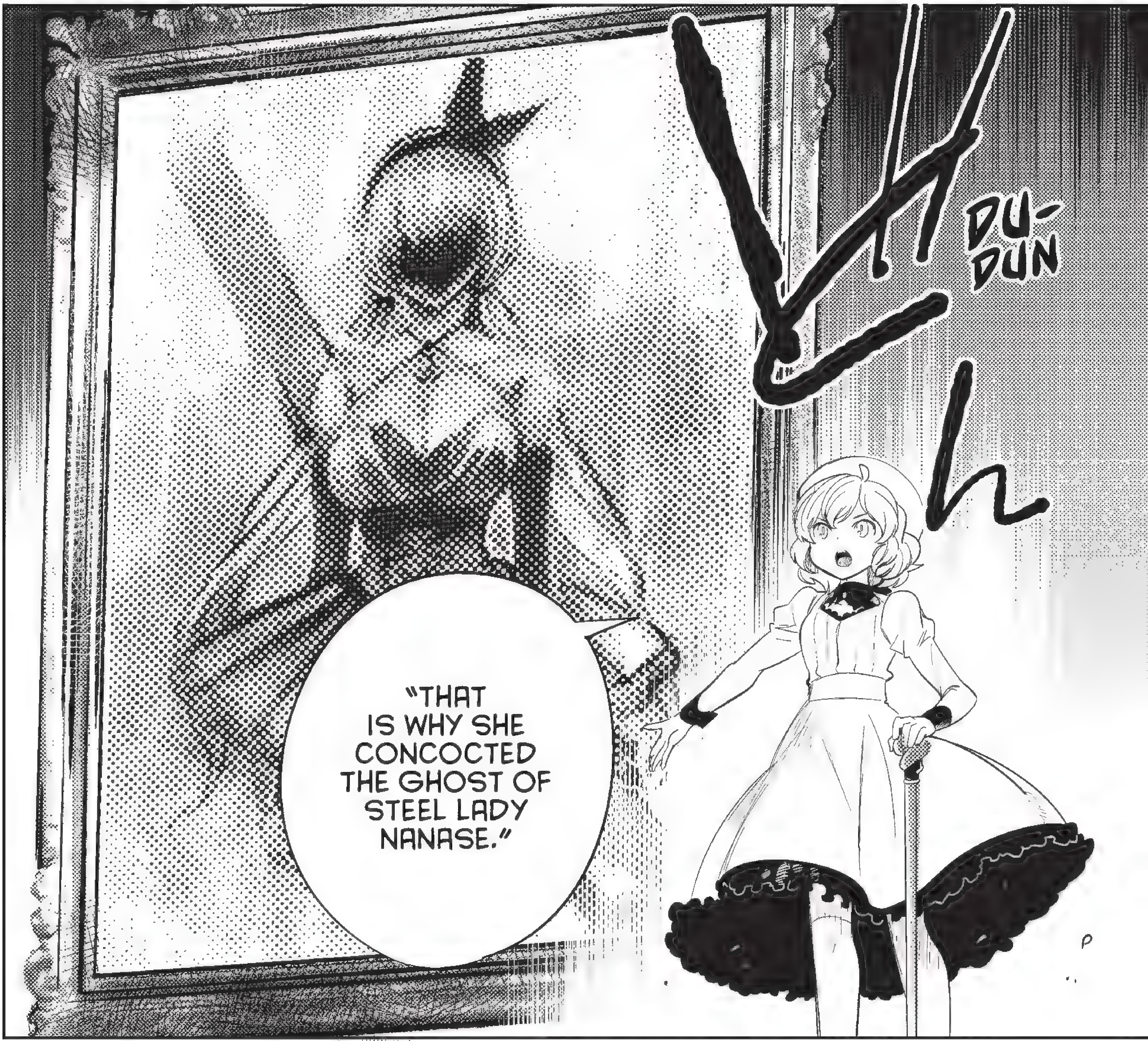
"YES.
IF THEY DID THAT, DETECTIVE TERADA MIGHT HAVE MOVED HIS HEAD OUT OF THE PENDULUM'S PATH."
"THAT'S THE DOWNSIDE.
BUT THE UPSIDE IS THAT THE VICTIM WOULD BE HIT IN THE FACE."
"AT THIS JUNCTURE, WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION TO KNOW HOW THE KILLER CHOSE TO DO IT."
"ALL WE CAN SAY IS THAT WHAT DID HAPPEN...
...IS WHAT THE KILLER WANTED."

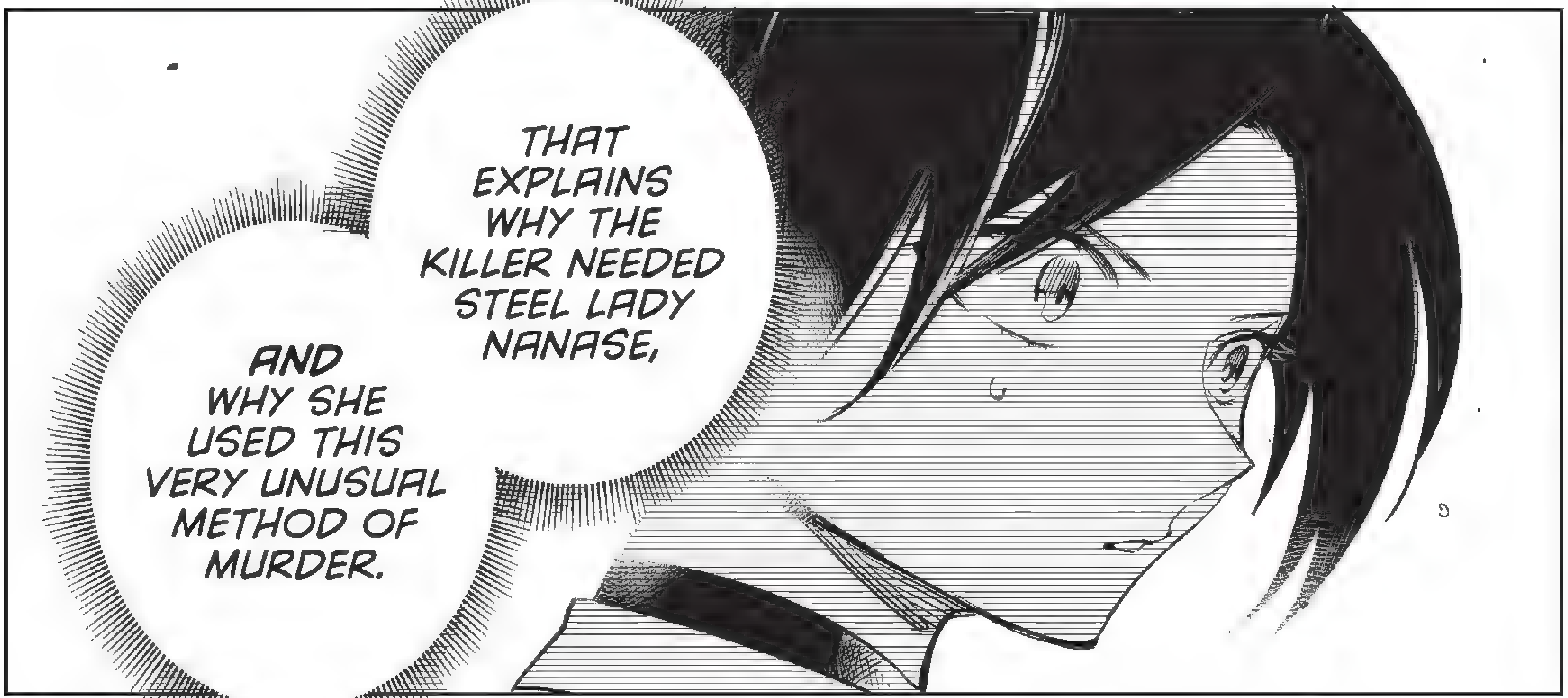
NAME-LESS
BUT YOU STILL HAVEN'T EXPLAINED THE MOST IMPORTANT PART.
POP
ぱっ
IE-SS
OKAY, I GET HOW IT WORKED.
POP
パ
YEAH. WHY WOULD THE KILLER GO TO ALL THAT TROUBLE?
ANONY-MOUS
ANON.
EVEN JUST THE FIRST STAGES, WHERE THE KILLER DRESSED UP LIKE STEEL LADY NANASE TO SCARE PEOPLE, WOULD BE A LOT OF WORK.
ぱ
POP
AND WOULDN'T IT ALSO BE A HASSLE TO PRETEND TO BE STEEL LADY NANASE?
SURE, HE'S A BIG, BURLY DETECTIVE WHO WON'T GO DOWN EASILY, BUT YOU COULD ALWAYS JUST POISON HIM.
NAME-LESS
YEAH. WHY MAKE THAT COSTUME AND PENDULUM WHEN GETTING POISON IS SO MUCH EASIER?
ANONY-MOUS
SHE HAD TO EXPECT THAT ARGUMENT. THIS LIE WON'T CONVINCE ANYONE IF WE DON'T HAVE A REASON FOR DOING ALL THAT.

"THE REASON THE KILLER WENT TO ALL THAT TROUBLE WAS THAT, IN THE EVENT OF DETECTIVE TERADA'S MURDER,
THEY WANTED TO DIVERT SUSPICION AS FAR FROM THEMSELF AS POSSIBLE."
ANONYMOUS
NAMELESS
ANON.
ANONYMOUS
NAMELESS
ANON.
ANON.
"IF A BIG, BURLY DETECTIVE IS BLUDGEONED IN THE FACE, OUTSIDE, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, OUR CRIMINAL'S PROFILE LEANS HEAVILY IN A CERTAIN DIRECTION.
IT WOULD HAVE TO HAVE BEEN SOMEONE STRONG ENOUGH TO KILL DETECTIVE TERADA BEFORE HE COULD FIGHT BACK, AND WHO WOULD REASONABLY BE WITH HIM AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
THE INVESTIGATION WOULD CERTAINLY BEGIN WITH THOSE FACTS IN MIND."
"AS LONG AS THE INVESTIGATORS DON'T KNOW THE TRICK, THEY WOULD ASSUME THAT THE KILLER WAS A MAN DETECTIVE TERADA KNEW,
WHO WAS AS STRONG, OR STRONGER THAN THE DETECTIVE HIMSELF."

"AND THAT MEANS THE KILLER WAS THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF ALL THAT."
SHRR
"SOMEONE MORE DELICATE THAN DETECTIVE TERADA,
WHO COULD NOT HIT HIM WITH POWERFUL FORCE."
Z-ZSH
"SOMEONE UNLIKELY TO BE FOUND ALONE WITH HIM, IN AN ABANDONED PLACE, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT."
KZH-ZH
NAME-LESS
ANONY-MOUS
Z-ZSH
"SOMEONE WHO WOULD LIKELY BE THE PRIME SUSPECT...
...IF THE DETECTIVE HAD BEEN MURDERED BY SOMETHING AS SIMPLE AS POISON."
ZSH

"IN OTHER WORDS, THE KILLER IS A WOMAN."
KZH
"FIRST, NO ONE WOULD EVER EXPECT A WOMAN TO BE IN ANY SUCH LONELY PLACE...
...IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, WITH A MAN WHO ISN'T EVEN HER BOYFRIEND."
"AND WE CAN ASSUME THAT THIS WOMAN DOESN'T HAVE THE PHYSICAL STRENGTH TO DELIVER A LETHAL BLOW TO HIS HEAD BEFORE HE COULD FIGHT BACK."
"NO ONE WOULD EVER BELIEVE THAT A JUDO CHAMP LIKE DETECTIVE TERADA WOULD FALL TO A ONE-HIT K.O. FROM A WOMAN.
AND THAT'S HOW THE KILLER REMOVED ALL SUSPICION FROM HERSELF."


DU-DUN
"THAT IS WHY SHE CONCOCTED THE GHOST OF STEEL LADY NANASE."


THAT EXPLAINS WHY THE KILLER NEEDED STEEL LADY NANASE,
AND WHY SHE USED THIS VERY UNUSUAL METHOD OF MURDER.

"IF YOU KNOW THE TRICK BEHIND THE MURDER AND THE REASON SHE MADE UP THE STEEL LADY NANASE INCIDENTS,
THEN IT'S ENOUGH TO NARROW DOWN THE SUSPECTS."
"THE KILLER WOULD BE SOMEONE WHO COULD EASILY LEARN DETECTIVE TERADA'S HEIGHT."
"AND WHO WOULDN'T ATTRACT SUSPICION IF SHE CALLED HIM IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT...
...TO GET HIM TO COME AND INVESTIGATE SOME EVIDENCE FROM A SUPPOSED ATTACK BY STEEL LADY NANASE."
"AND THE KILLER IS SOMEONE WHO WOULD KNOW THAT THE GOOD DETECTIVE...
...WOULD SPRING INTO ACTION IF THERE WERE STRANGE INCIDENTS PLAGUING HIS CITY."
"SOMEONE WHO FITS ALL THESE CRITERIA IS THE KILLER."
KZH ZH

NAMELESS
ANONYMOUS
Z-Z-Z-ZSH
"THE KILLER..."
ZSHH
"...IS A POLICEWOMAN WHO WORKS AT DETECTIVE TERADA'S PRECINCT."

ANONY-MOUS
ANONY-MOUS
ANON.
NAME-LESS
"IF SHE WORKS IN THE SAME BUILDING, SHE COULD EASILY DETERMINE THE VICTIM'S HEIGHT...
...BY MEASURING IT AGAINST DOORS, PRECINCT VENDING MACHINES, HEIGHTS OF POSTERS AND SIGNS, ETC."
MEN
"AND SHE WOULD KNOW HIS REPUTATION FROM WORKING IN HIS PRECINCT."

"IF A POLICE WOMAN WERE ATTACKED BY A SUSPICIOUS PERSON,
SHE COULD TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO PRESERVE EVIDENCE, AND CALL A RELIABLE DETECTIVE TO THE SCENE,"
"AND THE VICTIM WOULD NEVER SUSPECT A THING."
"BASED ON THE INFORMATION CURRENTLY AVAILABLE TO US, OUR CRIMINAL PROFILE MUST BE THAT OF A FEMALE POLICE OFFICER."
"AS FOR THE KILLER'S MOTIVE, ALL WE CAN DO IS SPECULATE.
MAYBE THE VICTIM WAS ANNOYING THE KILLER WITH CONSTANT, UNWANTED ADVANCES."

"MAYBE HE HAD SOME DIRT ON HER AND WAS USING IT TO HARASS HER, TO FORCE HER TO BE IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM."
"OR MAYBE THE KILLER HERSELF HAD FEELINGS FOR DETECTIVE TERADA,
BUT HE SELFISHLY REJECTED HER, AND SHE HATED HIM FOR IT."
"BUT, CONSIDERING ALL THE WORK AND METICULOUS PLANNING THAT WENT INTO THE CRIME,
I BELIEVE THAT THE MOTIVE SPRANG FROM AN OBSESSIVE TANGLE OF EMOTIONS."
"A PRACTICAL MOTIVE COULD NEVER LEAD TO SUCH A VINDICTIVE MURDER."
I THINK THAT COVERS IT FOR MY FIRST CLAIM.

"STEEL LADY NANASE IS NOT A GHOST."
"SHE IS A FICTITIOUS CREATION THAT A POLICEWOMAN DUPED THE WORLD...
...INTO BELIEVING, ALL SO SHE COULD SET A TRAP TO KILL DETECTIVE TERADA."
WHAM
"SHE IS THE MEANS TO A MURDER!"

EVEN WITHOUT NAMING A KILLER,
SHE MADE EVERYONE BELIEVE THAT A KILLER COULD EXIST BY NARROWING DOWN THE POOL OF SUSPECTS.
me items she ha
y Steel Lady
Name: kuebik
Steel
She
eation that a
the w
ving, all so sh
kill Detective Terada. She is the
NO SUSPECTS HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY, BUT SHE PRESENTS SUCH A CLEAR CRIMINAL PROFILE...
...THAT SHE MIGHT AS WELL HAVE IDENTIFIED THE VERY PERSON.
POP
POP
TAK
TAK
AND JUST LIKE THAT, SHE REDIRECTED THE CURRENT OF THOUGHT.
GASP
WHAM

<858> Name: Withheld by Request
Is that even possible?

<859> Name: Withheld by Request 09/04 22:51
I can see it being a woman.

I think this pendulum theory
ight track.

<862> Name: Withheld by Request 09/04 22:53 ID:opom
Still, it's a really elaborate murder.

Name: Withheld by Request 09/04 22:53 ID:moy78b
It explains Steel Lady Nanase's appearances
victim's face was smashed in.

Name: Withheld by Request 09/04 22:53 ID:o;p0sa
According to this logic,
wouldn't anybody close to him be able to figure it

RIGHT NOW, KURÔ-KUN MUST BE WORKING TO FIND A FUTURE...
...WHERE THE PEOPLE SUPPORT IWANAGA-SAN'S SOLUTION.
SWOOSH
KURÔ-SENPAI, IF YOU WOULD.
IT'S UP TO YOU, IWANAGA.
GNN

くる
WHIRL
...HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!
BAM
YOUR PROFILE OF THE KILLER...
...IS PRACTICALLY DESCRIBING ME!
ポリ SCRITCH
ポリ SCRITCH
OH.
YOU NOTICED THAT?
HOW COULD YOU EXPECT ME NOT TO?!
A POLICE-WOMAN WHO WORKS AT THE MAKURAZAKA POLICE DEPARTMENT, WHO WAS ADMIRED BY TERADA-SAN.
EVEN THE CHIEF WOULD ONLY NEED ONE GUESS!
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO HAVE TO PUT UP WITH IT.
YOU WOULDN'T WANT ME TO GO CASTING SUSPICION ON A COMPLETE *STRANGER* OF A POLICE-WOMAN.

FIRST OF ALL, THE INVESTIGATION TEAM ISN'T GOING TO TAKE SOME RANDOM INTERNET FORUMS SERIOUSLY.
AND EVEN IF THEY DID LOOK INTO IT, IT WOULDN'T TAKE THEM LONG TO DISCOVER THAT THE WHOLE THING IS A LIE.
THEY COULDN'T POSSIBLY FIND ANY TRACE OF A HOOK HAVING BEEN INSTALLED ON THE ROOF OF THAT GAS STATION.
AND THE BLOOD SPATTER AND AUTOPSY REPORT SHOULD HAVE ALREADY PROVEN THAT HIS SKULL WAS NOT SMASHED BY A PENDULUM-STYLE WEAPON.
BUT NO ONE CARES ABOUT THAT ON THE INTERNET.
THE PEOPLE THERE BELIEVE WHAT THEY WANT.
THERE *ARE* GOING TO BE PEOPLE AT THE PRECINCT WHO ARE GOING TO WONDER.
Traffic Division

SIGN: NATIONAL TRAFFIC SAFETY CAMPAIGN

Let's be safe!
SAFETY
...
SO PLEASE JUST BEAR WITH ME.
A WONDER LASTS BUT NINE DAYS.
TKKA
TKKA
BESIDES, THIS SOLUTION ISN'T GOING TO LAST LONG ANYWAY.
THIS GIRL ...!
AND YOU DON'T LOOK VERY DELICATE, SO YOU DON'T *EXACTLY* MATCH THE PROFILE I'VE CREATED.
THEY'LL FORGET ALL ABOUT IT IN NO TIME.
WHAT ...?

MOUS
ANONY-MOUS
I FIND IT UNLIKELY THAT A FEMALE KILLER COULD SET THAT PENDULUM UP ON THE GAS STATION ROOF ALL BY HERSELF.
ANON.
I'M NOT BUYING IT.
Z-ZSH
NAME-LESS
NAME-LESS
WOULD IT REALLY BE SAFE TO MAKE UP AN URBAN LEGEND,
AND THEN WREAK ENOUGH HAVOC TO GET DETECTIVE TERADA'S ATTENTION?
ANON.
ANON.
LESS
ANON.
YEAH, THE PENDULUM THING DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.
ANONY-MOUS
KZH-ZH
Z-ZSH
THIS IS JUST SOME NON-BELIEVING, HARDHEADED FOOL, FORCING A RATIONAL EXPLANATION SO THEY DON'T HAVE TO ADMIT THAT STEEL LADY NANASE IS REAL.
IT WAS A PRETTY FUN THEORY, THOUGH.

WAIT... WHAT'S HAPPENING?
I KNOW THE SOLUTION WASN'T VERY REALISTIC...
BUT IT STILL DOESN'T MAKE SENSE THAT THE TIDE WOULD TURN THIS QUICKLY.
I THOUGHT...
...KURÔ-KUN USED HIS POWERS TO CHANGE THE CURRENT OF THOUGHT.
GASP
...
KONK
IWANAGA-SAN.
YOU SAID IT'S RIKKA-SAN TRYING TO GIVE FORM TO STEEL LADY NANASE?
NOD
YES.
TKKA
TKKA
AND SHE HAS POWERS JUST LIKE KURÔ-KUN'S? SHE CAN CHOOSE THE FUTURE?
YES, JUST AS I EXPLAINED EARLIER.

ズ ZH
ズ ZH
BUT DOESN'T THAT MEAN...
...RIKKA-SAN CAN FORCE WHATEVER FUTURE SHE WANTS, TOO?!
ZH ズッ
YES.
THAT'S WHY EVERYONE TURNED AGAINST US SO QUICKLY.
THE GHOST THEORY ALREADY HAD A LOT OF SUPPORT.
ALL SHE HAD TO DO WAS POINT OUT A FEW FLAWS IN OUR SOLUTION, DIE,
AND SHE COULD HAVE EASILY SHIFTED THE CURRENT AWAY FROM US.

WHOOOOSH
ゴォオォ
A FEW OF THESE POSTS MAY HAVE BEEN MADE BY RIKKA-SAN HERSELF.

RI...
FSH
FZH
JUST LOOK AT THE SITE ITSELF.
ALL OF THESE PEOPLE READING AND POSTING ALL AT THE SAME TIME.
OPINIONS ARE FLYING LEFT AND RIGHT, AND THE SERVER HASN'T CRASHED ONCE.
AND WE'VE HARDLY ENCOUNTERED ANY TROLLS. TALK ABOUT ABNORMAL, RIGHT?

I SUSPECT RIKKA-SAN IS MAINTAINING THE WEBSITE BY SELECTING A FUTURE...
...WITH AS FEW PROBLEMS AS POSSIBLE.
SHE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO CENSOR COMMENTS...
...BUT SHE STILL MOST CERTAINLY HAS THE ADVANTAGE.
RIKKA-SAN IS ABOVE THE LAWS OF NATURE, TOO... THAT REMOVES WHATEVER ADVANTAGE WE HAD.
IN FACT, BECAUSE RIKKA-SAN GOT A HEAD START AND CREATED A STRONG BELIEF IN THE GHOST,
WE'RE AT A SERIOUS DISADVANTAGE.
GNN
...
It was a pretty fun theory, though.
It's just some non-believing, hardheaded fool, forcing a rational explanation so they don't have to admit that Steel Lady Nanase is real.
Yeah, the pendulum thing doesn't mak
sense.
Are you sure it would
make up an urban legend
enough havoc to get Detect
attention?
I find it
could set th
station roof a

THIS IS A UNIQUE ASSEMBLY.
HERE, THE TRUTH NEVER EXISTED.
ONLY FICTION.
RIKKA-SAN AND I BOTH KNOW THAT STEEL LADY NANASE DIDN'T EXIST BEFORE.
BUT SHE IS TRYING TO GIVE FORM TO THAT FICTION.

AND KURÔ-SENPAI AND I ARE TRYING TO CONVINCE PEOPLE OF THE FICTION THAT STEEL LADY NANASE DOES NOT NOW EXIST.
B-DMP
GNN
ZLRR
TMP

YOU MIGHT SAY THIS IS A COMMITTEE OF DUELING FICTIONS.
ドガッ
PA-POW

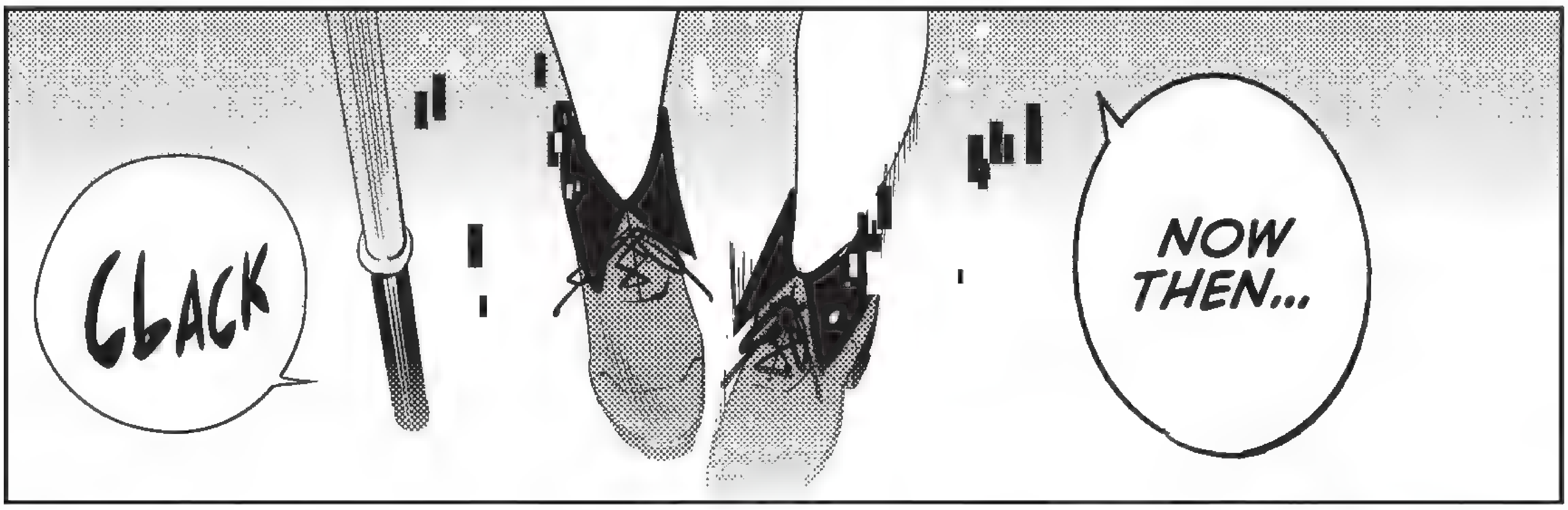
WHACK
RUMBLE
OF MY FOUR SOLUTIONS,
I HAVE ONLY PRESENTED ONE.
AND I WILL BE THE VICTOR.
CLANG

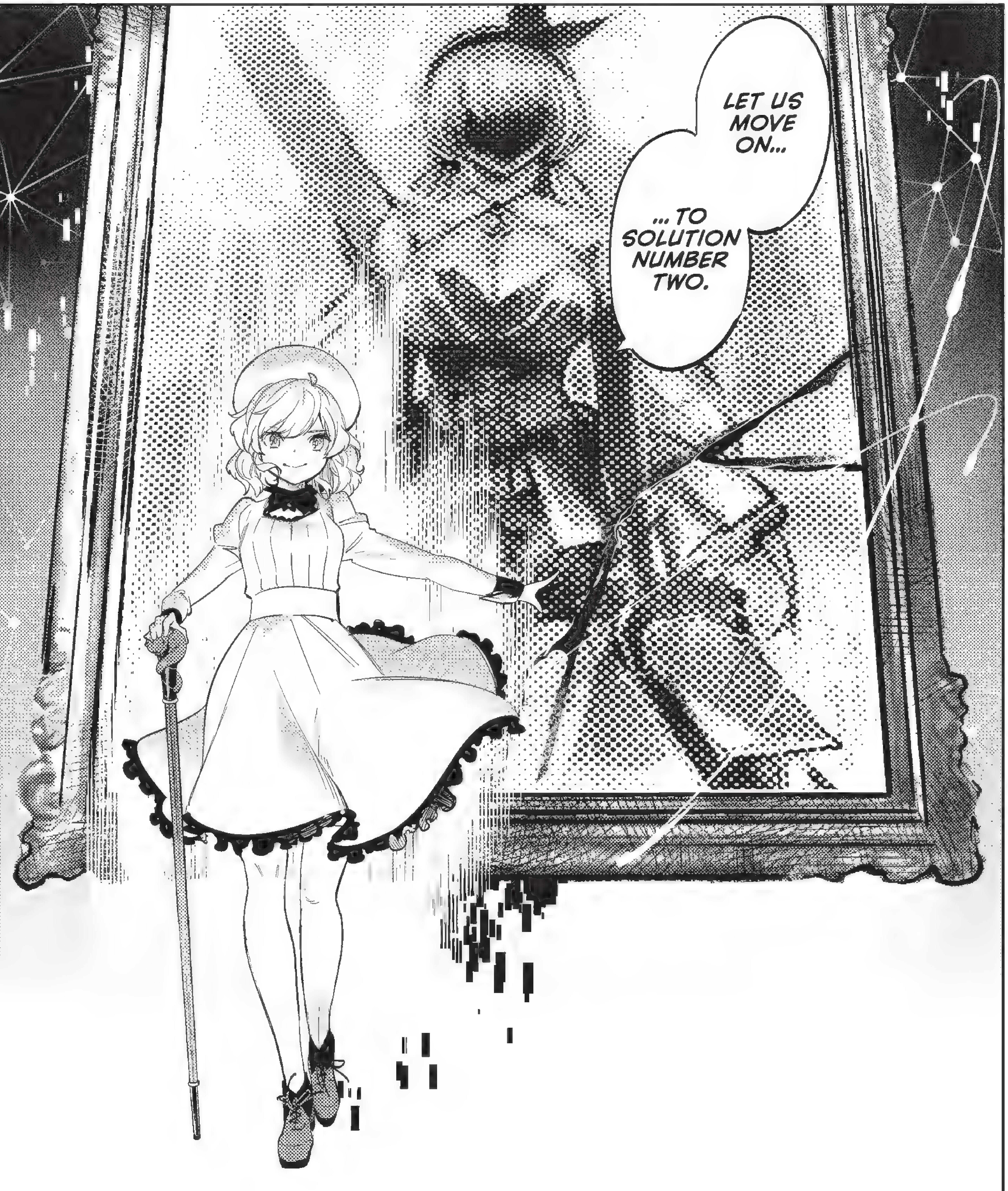
ALL I NEED IS TO GET A PART OF THE ASSEMBLY TO BELIEVE IT.
JUST A PART OF IT...
I SEE.
RISE
むく
THE INTERNET IS A SWIRLING MASS OF DIFFERING WORLD VIEWS. IT ISN'T EASY TO GET EVERYONE THERE TO BELIEVE A SINGLE TRUTH.
AND PEOPLE WON'T ALWAYS ACCEPT SOMETHING EVEN IF IT IS TRUE.
IN THAT CASE...
...WE JUST HAVE TO PRESENT A VARIETY OF TRUTHS TO MATCH THAT VARIETY OF WORLD VIEWS.

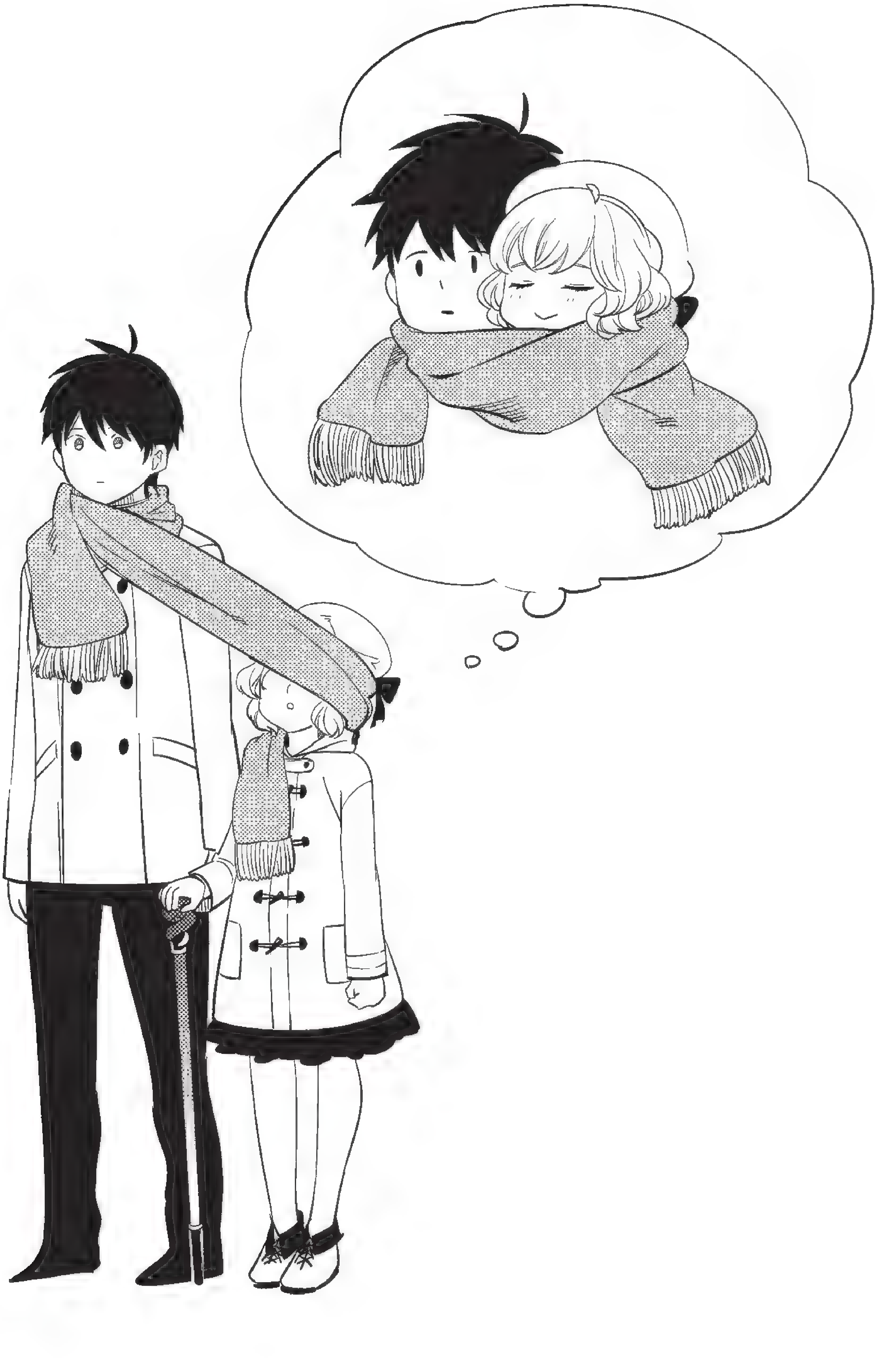
ゴゴゴ
RUMBLE
SO SHE'S GOING TO DO THIS THREE MORE TIMES...
ボウ
FWOOM
THE PENDULUM SOLUTION WASN'T ENOUGH TO COMPLETELY WIPE OUT THE PEOPLE'S DESIRE TO BELIEVE IN STEEL LADY NANASE.
BUT IT SHOULD HAVE WON SOME OF THEM OVER TO OUR SIDE.
ピキッ
CRACK
KHEEEEN
...AND SLOWLY, BUT SURELY, CHIP AWAY AT STEEL LADY NANASE'S SUPPORT!

SHE DOESN'T NEED ONE THEORY TO GAIN THE MAJORITY.
SHE JUST NEEDS TO CONVINCE ENOUGH PEOPLE NOT TO VOTE FOR RIKKA-SAN'S PROPOSED BILL.
THAT'S WHAT GIVES THIS STRATEGY A CHANCE.
WHAT AN INCREDIBLE GIRL.
SHE'S ABLE TO EXHAUST EVERY POSSIBLE IDEA, EXPERTLY WIELDING HER BLADE IN ONE HAND...
...WHILE INJECTING POISON WITH THE OTHER.

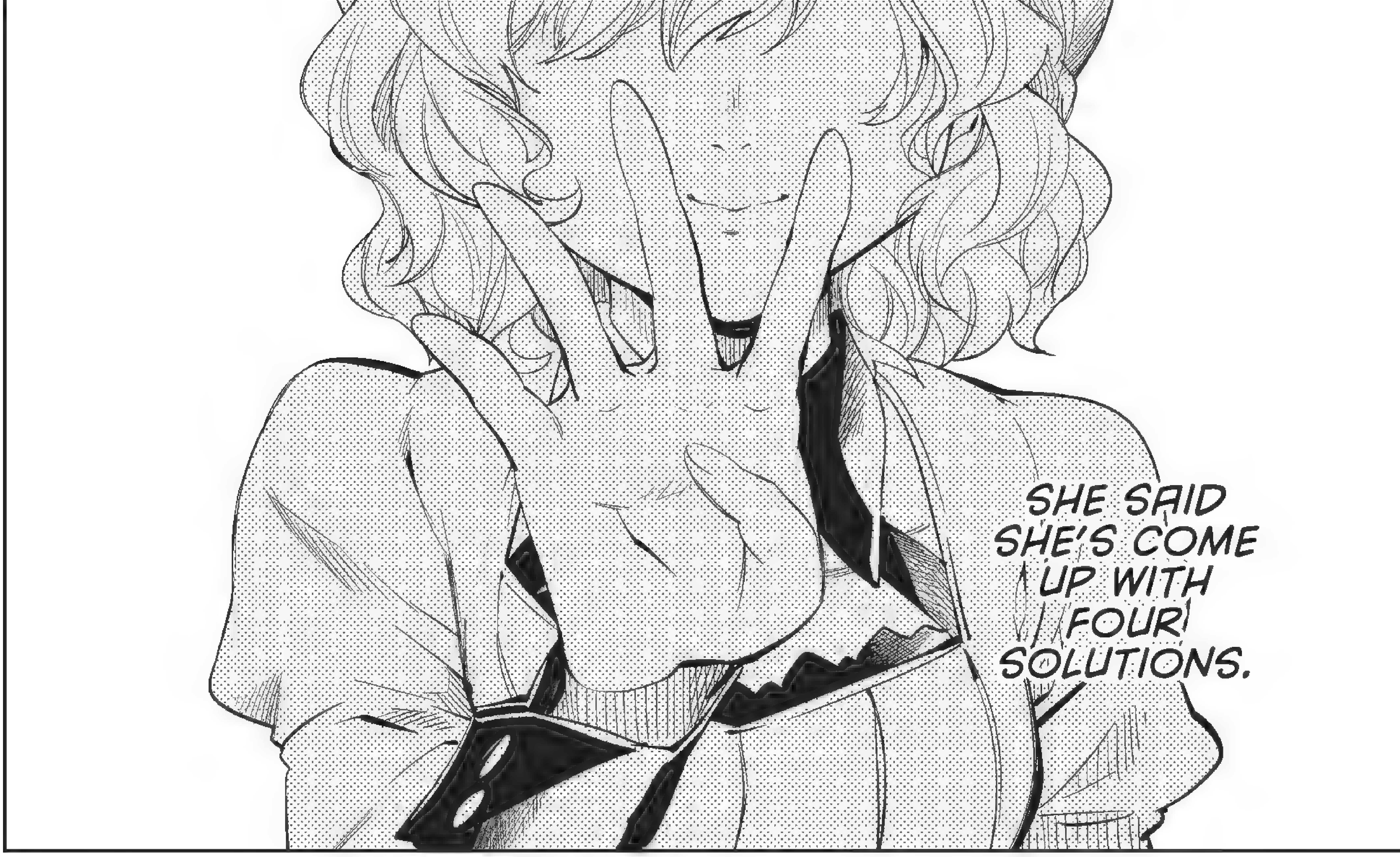
SHE WIELDS LIES AS A WEAPON TO SOLVE HER PROBLEMS...
...BUT I HAD NO IDEA SHE COULD BE THIS DIABOLICAL.
CLICK
KZH
ZH
ZH

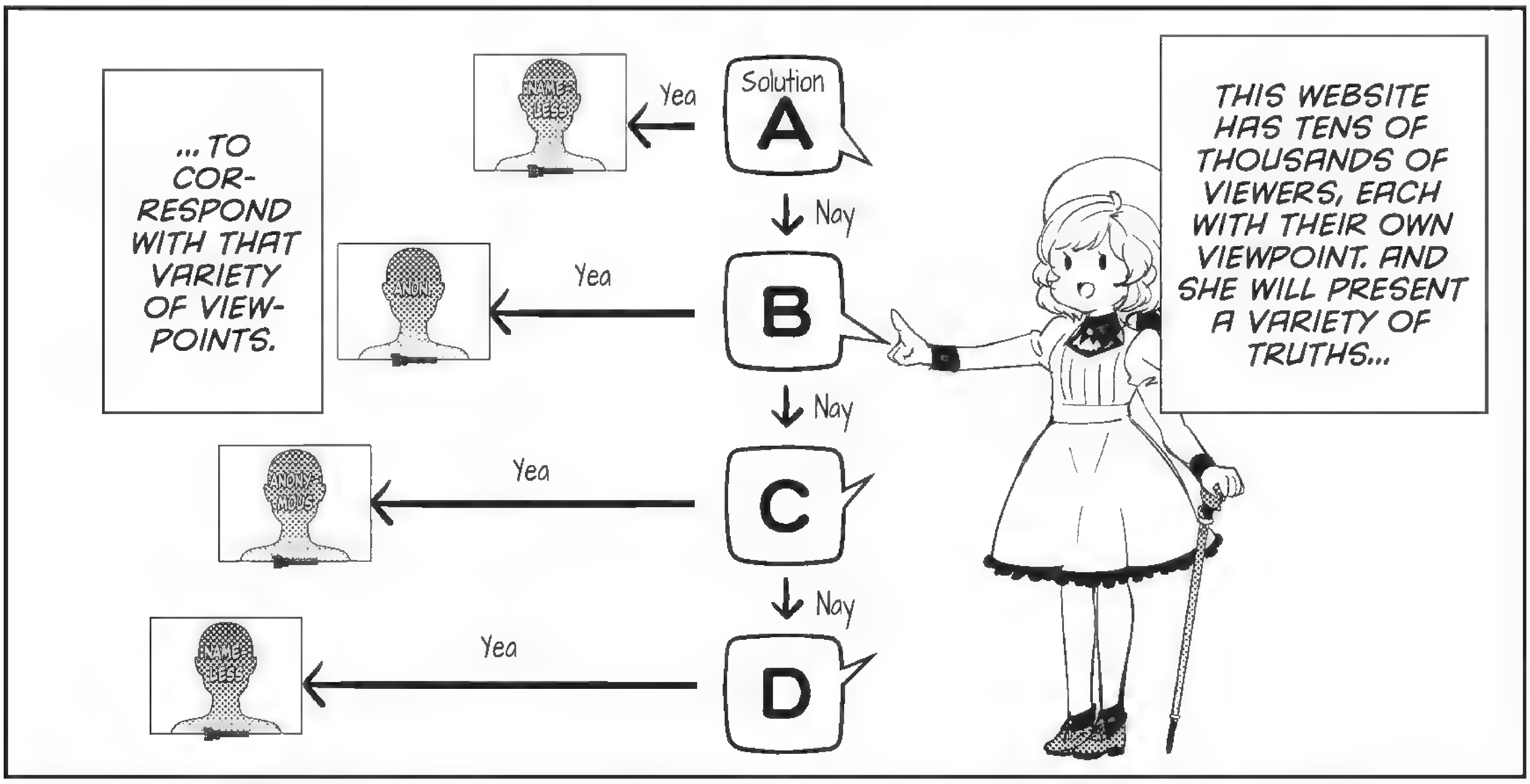

NOW THEN...
CLACK

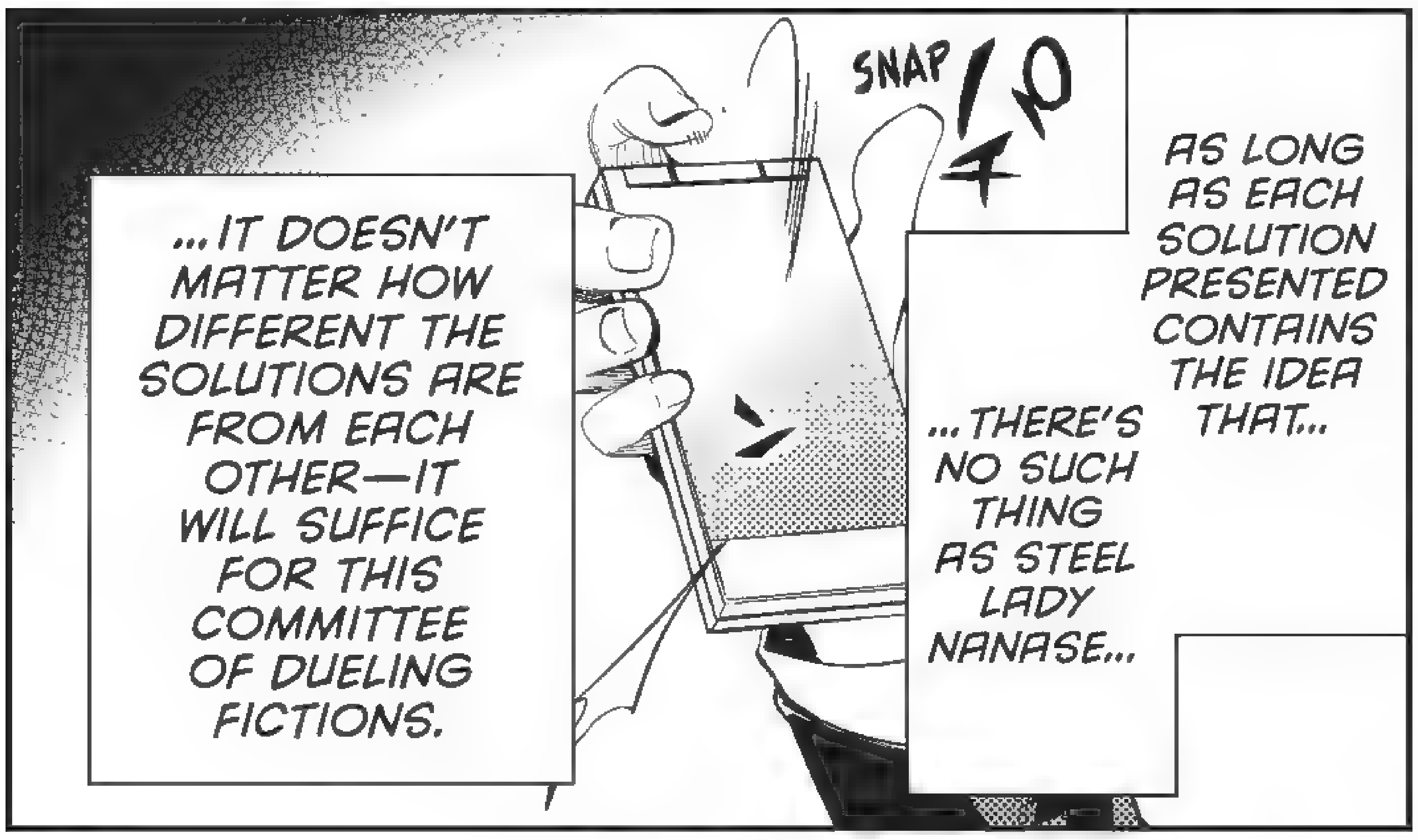

LET US MOVE ON...
...TO SOLUTION NUMBER TWO.

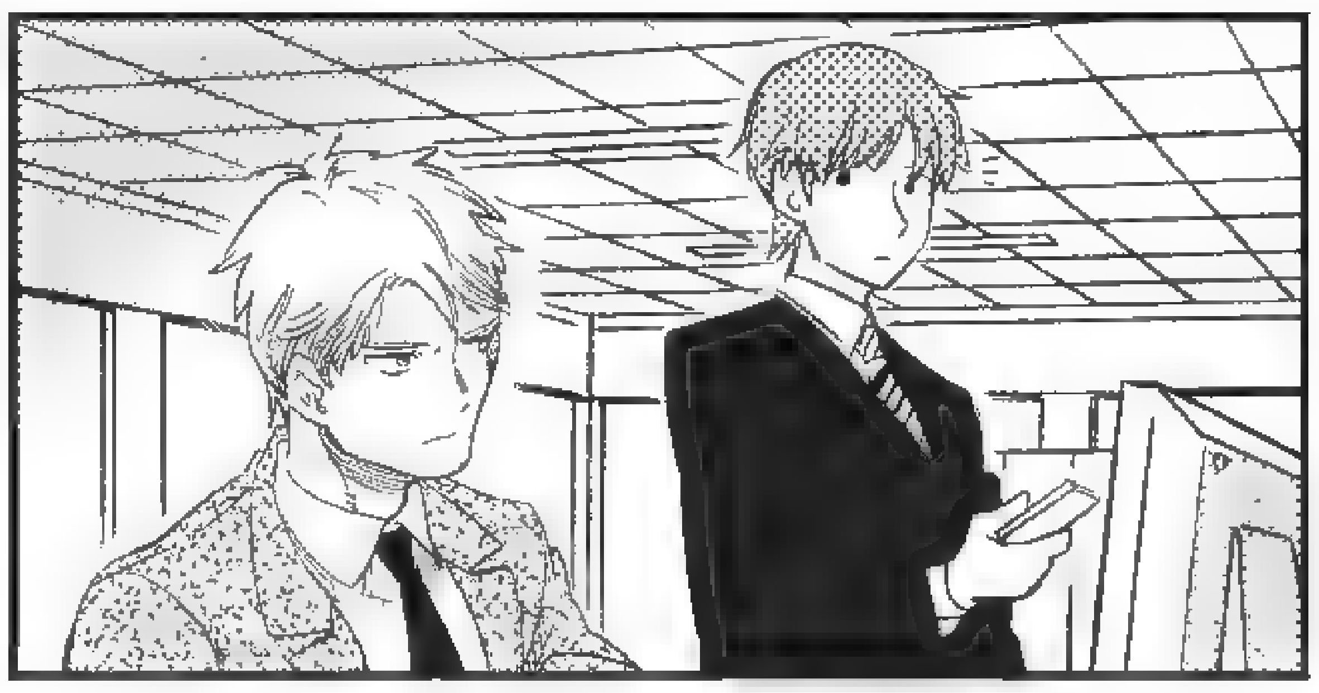


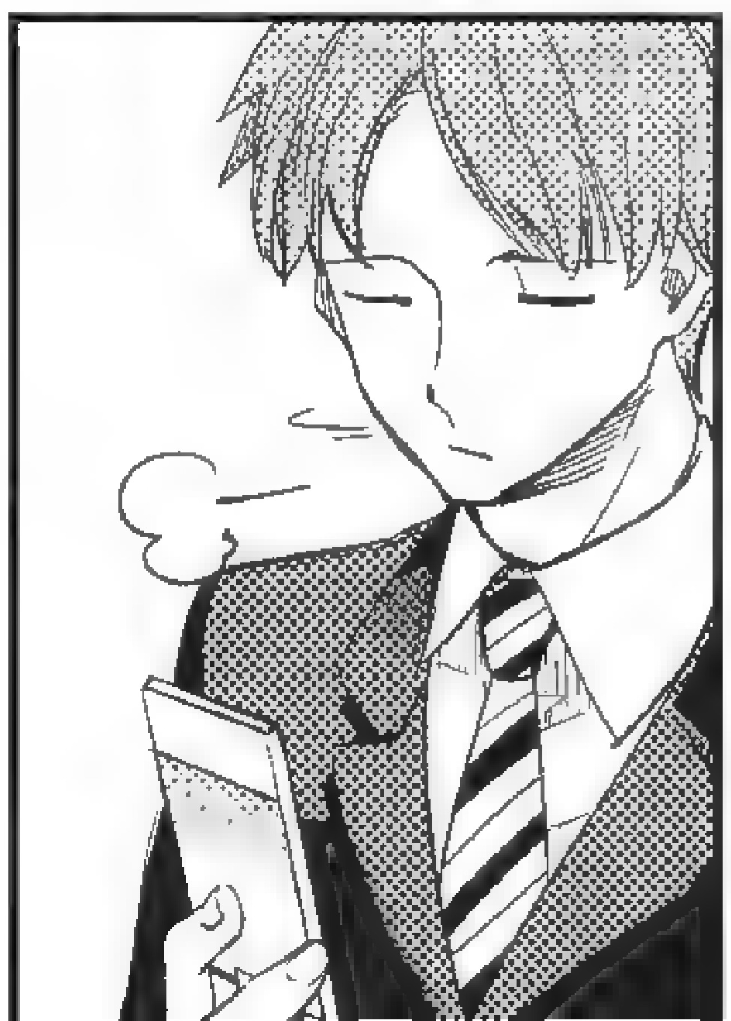
CHAPTER 10: "THE TALE OF KARIN NANASE"

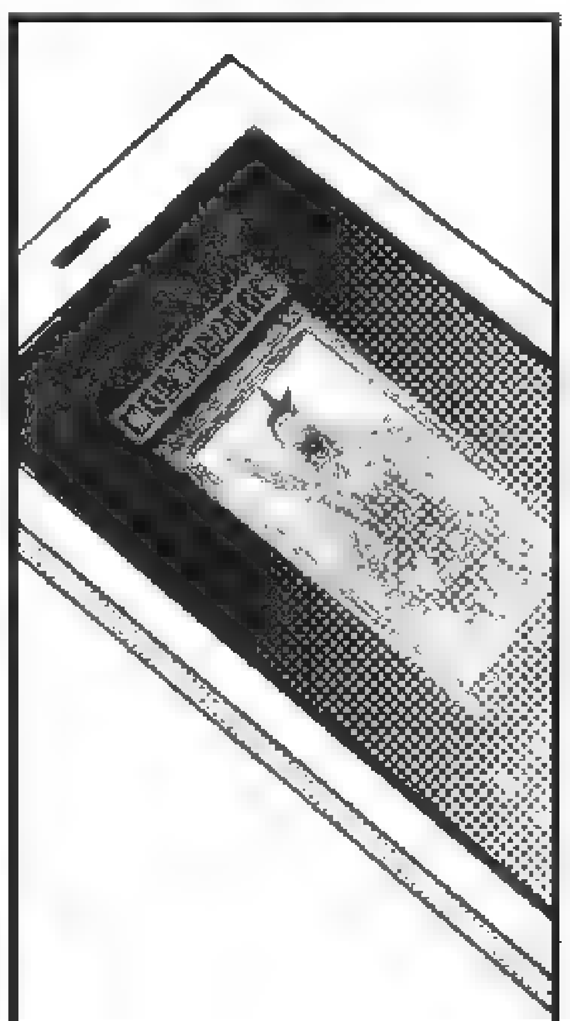

SHE SAID SHE'S COME UP WITH FOUR SOLUTIONS.


THIS WEBSITE HAS TENS OF THOUSANDS OF VIEWERS, EACH WITH THEIR OWN VIEWPOINT. AND SHE WILL PRESENT A VARIETY OF TRUTHS...
...TO CORRESPOND WITH THAT VARIETY OF VIEWPOINTS.
Solution
A
Yea
NAMELESS
Nay
B
Yea
ANON
Nay
C
Yea
ANONYMOUS
Nay
D
Yea
NAMELESS


SNAP
AS LONG AS EACH SOLUTION PRESENTED CONTAINS THE IDEA THAT...
...THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS STEEL LADY NANASE...
...IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW DIFFERENT THE SOLUTIONS ARE FROM EACH OTHER—IT WILL SUFFICE FOR THIS COMMITTEE OF DUELING FICTIONS.







ドカ
KAPOW
IF SHE KEEPS CHIPPING AND CHIPPING AWAY AT THE SUPPORT FOR STEEL LADY NANASE...
...THEN THE IMAGINATIVE POWERS WILL WEAKEN, AND STEEL LADY NANASE WILL LOSE THE ABILITY TO MAINTAIN HER PHYSICAL FORM.
GH GH...
GLOOP!!

YOU'RE WRONG.
ヒュ
SWISH
POP
STEEL LADY NANASE IS A REAL LIVE GHOST!
I SAW HER! SHE WAS JUST THERE, IN FRONT OF MY CAR!
ANON.
IT HAPPENED AT X RIVER! JUST FIVE DAYS AGO!
STEEL LADY NANASE MATERIALIZED, LIKE SMOKE.
AND... UM...
CLICK
カチ
カチ
CLICK
ANON.
SHE WAS TOTALLY BERSERK! SHE THREW HER STEEL BEAM AT ME!
X River five days ago...
...
SWOOSH

WHAM
THERE'S NO OTHER EXPLANATION! SHE WAS A GHOST OUT FOR REVENGE!
I COULD'VE BEEN KILLED, JUST LIKE THAT DETECTIVE!
TKKA カタ
TKKA カタ
CLACK コツ
CLACK コツ

TKKA TKKA
I WILL BE THE VICTOR.
ZH
CRIK
SNAP
ZLRRLRR

Z-Z-ZSH
LET US MOVE ON...
...TO SOLUTION NUMBER TWO.
TAK

<031> Name: kuebiko 09/04 22:50 ID:mm mnH3

Steel Lady Nanase isn't a hoax.

She's a real live ghost.

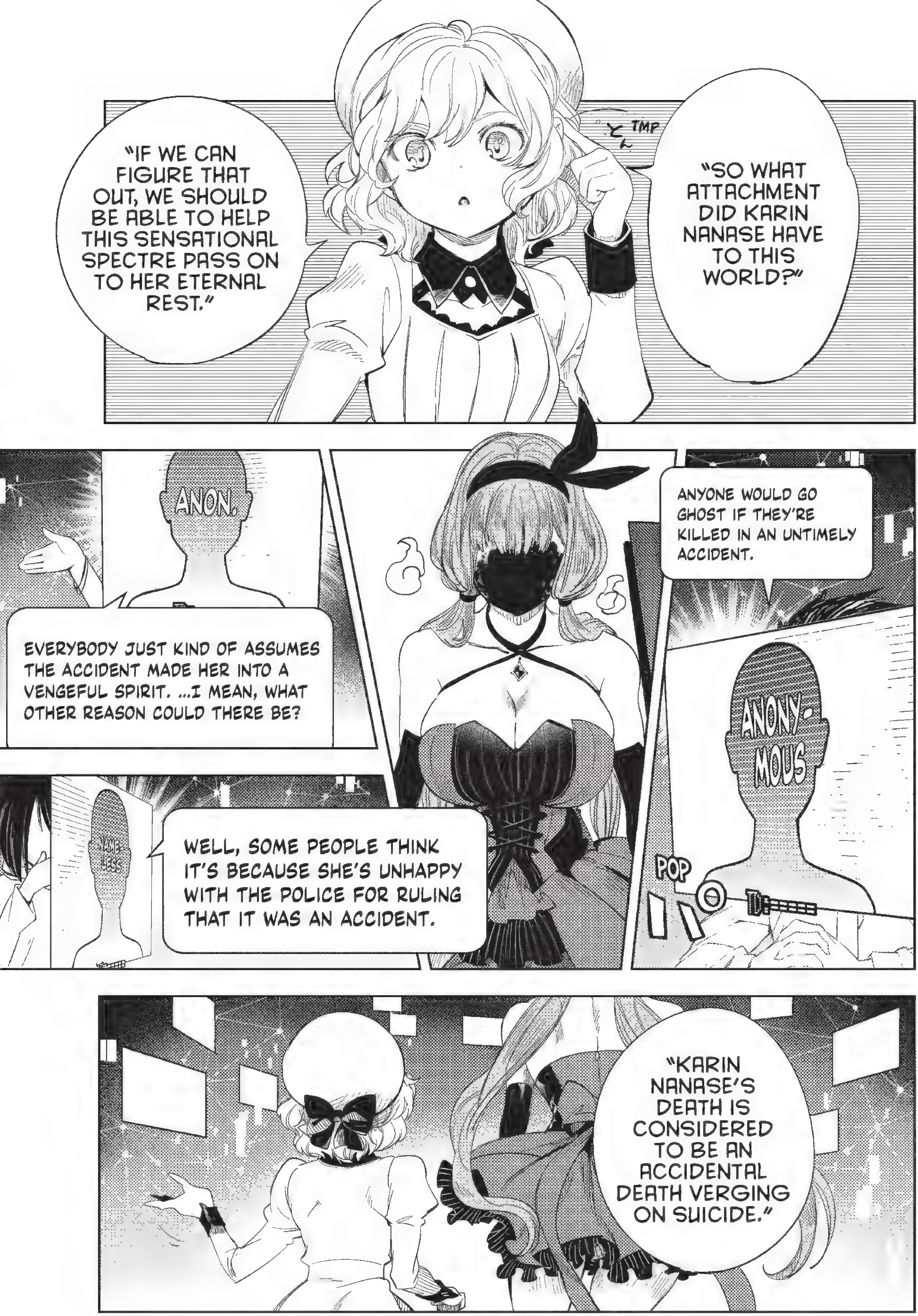
POP
ぽかん
GAPE
I THOUGHT YOUR STANCE WAS THAT STEEL LADY NANASE IS NOT A GHOST?
SO WHY ARE YOU SAYING SHE'S REAL?
FWP
PLEASE CALM DOWN.
IF I CAN'T USE LOGIC TO TEAR DOWN THE IMPOSSIBLE, THEN I'LL USE THE IMPOSSIBLE INSTEAD.
THAT WILL BE MY DOORWAY TO BUILD A NEW LOGIC FROM WITHIN.

IF I CAN GET THEM TO BELIEVE THAT THE GHOST APPEARED FOR A REASON, THAT WILL INEVITABLY LEAD US TO THE METHOD FOR EXORCISING THAT GHOST.
BECAUSE IF YOU REMOVE THE REASON FOR A GHOST'S APPEARANCE, THAT GHOST CEASES TO APPEAR.
S—
STILL ...
"STEEL LADY NANASE ISN'T A HOAX.
SHE'S A REAL LIVE GHOST."
HOW IS THIS GOING TO...?
"SO WHY WOULD KARIN NANASE COME BACK AS A GHOST AND START ATTACKING PEOPLE?"
ANON

ANON.
HUH?
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR PENDULUM THING?
WHAT ARE YOU, A TROLL?
WHAT'S THIS NOW?
KZH
ZH
PA-POP
OH, WE'RE STARTING OVER?
A NEW THEORY?
ZH
ANON
"DETECTIVE TERADA WAS KILLED BY THE GHOST OF STEEL LADY NANASE."
ZSHHH

"HE WAS CONDUCTING AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION OF THE STEEL LADY, AND WAS UNFORTUNATE ENOUGH TO RUN INTO THE REAL THING,
AT WHICH POINT SHE USED HER STEEL BEAM TO BLUDGEON HIM TO DEATH."
"THE DETECTIVE DIDN'T BELIEVE IN GHOSTS, AND WAS LITERALLY STUNNED TO ENCOUNTER ONE IN PERSON."
"THAT'S WHEN SHE CLUBBED HIM."
"HE COULDN'T HAVE FOUGHT BACK."

"ALL THE INEXPLICABLE DETAILS OF THE CRIME SCENE WERE MADE POSSIBLE BECAUSE THE KILLER WAS A GHOST."
"SO WHY WOULD STEEL LADY NANASE...
WHIRL
...OR RATHER, KARIN NANASE, COME BACK AS A GHOST?"
"GHOSTS ARE SPIRITS OF THE DECEASED WHO HAVE DEEP-SEATED GRUDGES AGAINST OUR WORLD...
...AND WANDER THIS PLANE IN THEIR ATTEMPT TO RIGHT THE INJUSTICE."
GLOW
ポウ


"SO WHAT ATTACHMENT DID KARIN NANASE HAVE TO THIS WORLD?"
TMP
"IF WE CAN FIGURE THAT OUT, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HELP THIS SENSATIONAL SPECTRE PASS ON TO HER ETERNAL REST."
ANYONE WOULD GO GHOST IF THEY'RE KILLED IN AN UNTIMELY ACCIDENT.
ANONYMOUS
POP
ANON.
EVERYBODY JUST KIND OF ASSUMES THE ACCIDENT MADE HER INTO A VENGEFUL SPIRIT. ...I MEAN, WHAT OTHER REASON COULD THERE BE?
NAMELESS
WELL, SOME PEOPLE THINK IT'S BECAUSE SHE'S UNHAPPY WITH THE POLICE FOR RULING THAT IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.
"KARIN NANASE'S DEATH IS CONSIDERED TO BE AN ACCIDENTAL DEATH VERGING ON SUICIDE."

"ON THAT RAINY NIGHT, AT THAT ABANDONED CONSTRUCTION SITE,
KARIN NANASE WAS IN SUCH A STATE OF DESPAIR THAT SHE WAS WILLING TO TAKE THE FULL BRUNT OF THE GIRDERS."
"NORMALLY, SHE WOULD HAVE TRIED TO DODGE THE AVALANCHE OF I-BEAMS, OR TO SHIELD HERSELF FROM THEM,
BUT INSTEAD, SHE LET THEM HIT HER RIGHT IN THE FACE."
"IN A SENSE, HER DEATH WAS A WISH COME TRUE."

"THEN, WHY WOULD SHE COME BACK AS A GHOST?
IF SHE WERE SO RESIGNED TO HER STEEL-BEAMED FATE, WHY WOULD SHE BE WREAKING HAVOC WITH ONE OF THEM?"
SUICIDE VICTIMS COME BACK AS GHOSTS.
ANON.
BUT ARE THEY USUALLY AS IN-YOUR-FACE AS STEEL LADY NANASE?
Z-ZSH
YEAH, A PRETTY GIRL AND A STEEL BEAM.
KZH ZH
WITH A GIANT RACK, AMIRITE? BOING BOING.
NOT THAT I'VE SEEN THEM.
IT WAS SOCIETY THAT DROVE HER TO THAT CONSTRUCTION SITE WHERE SHE DIED.
WOULDN'T ANYBODY IN THAT SITUATION WANT TO LASH OUT AT ANYONE AND EVERYONE?
POP
ANON.

"IF SHE BLAMED THE WORLD FOR KILLING HER, AND THAT GRUDGE IS WHAT MADE HER A GHOST,
THEN DIDN'T SOCIETY REPAY THE DEBT LONG AGO?"
七瀬かりん
Karin Nanase FAN SITE
Enter
Leave
URBAN LEGENDS
Latest Edition
The Truth Behind the Idol with the Big Rack, Karin Nanase
STEEL LADY NANASE IS BORN
"STEEL LADY NANASE MADE HER A STAR."
"SHE HASN'T BEEN FORGOTTEN, AND THE PUBLIC DOESN'T ATTACK HER ANYMORE.
WE'RE ALL THRILLED TO SEE HER AS STEEL LADY NANASE."
"SHE HAS BECOME AN IDOL ONCE MORE."

"SO WHY HAS SHE GOTTEN MORE VIOLENT? SHE'S EVEN KILLED A MAN."
POP
パッ
鋼人七瀬まとめサイト
STEEL LADY NANASE WIKI
SWISH
スィー
鋼人七瀬について
ABOUT STEEL LADY NANASE
七瀬かりんについて
ABOUT KARIN NANASE
カッ
CLICK
七瀬かりんについて
考察ブログ
RELEVANT BLOGS
まとめ
板まとめ
The accident that killed her father
POP
パッ
Karin Nanase had been suspected of killing her own father.
Karin Nanase's father died in June of the year she was 19.
"THE REASON SHE WAS DETHRONED AS AN IDOL TO BEGIN WITH IS THAT SHE WAS SUSPECTED OF MURDERING HER FATHER."
"THE WAY THINGS STAND, EVEN WITH HER NEW-FOUND POPULARITY, SHE MAY AGAIN FIND HERSELF THE OBJECT OF FEAR AND DERISION."

CLICK カチッ
"ERGO, KARIN NANASE DID NOT BECOME A GHOST BECAUSE OF HER FEELINGS TOWARD THE PUBLIC.
AND SHE IS NOT TRYING TO BE REINSTATED AS AN IDOL."
PZH
"SHE HAS A DIFFERENT GRIEVANCE—A DIFFERENT TRUTH."
"AND THAT IS WHAT SHE IS TRYING TO TELL THE WORLD."
"BUT AFTER ALL THIS TIME, THE PUBLIC STILL REFUSES TO UNDERSTAND THAT TRUTH.
THAT IS WHY SHE HAS GROWN MORE VIOLENT."

"HERE'S SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT."
"NO ONE IS CURRENTLY ACCUSING KARIN NANASE OF MURDER. NO ONE IS LEFT TO OPEN UP THAT OLD WOUND."
"BUT NO ONE HAS CLEARED HER OF SUSPICION, EITHER."
SHAKE ふる
SHAKE ふる
"IF SHE REALLY DID KILL HER FATHER, THEN WHAT COULD SHE BE TRYING SO DESPERATELY TO TELL THE WORLD?"

"IF SOMEONE DID COMMIT A MURDER, THEN IT WOULD ONLY BE RIGHT FOR THEM TO BE CENSURED AND REMOVED FROM IDOL STATUS.
SHE COULDN'T RESENT THE INJUSTICE OF THAT."
Bill of Complaint
"SHE IS ANGRY BECAUSE SHE DID *NOT* KILL HIM,
AND SHE CAME BACK AS A GHOST BECAUSE SHE WANTS THE WORLD TO KNOW THAT."
"BUT...
...IS THAT THE ONLY REASON?"
SLUMP

"IF ALL THE ACCUSATIONS STOP, IT'S BASICALLY THE SAME AS BEING DECLARED INNOCENT."
"YOU COULD SAY SHE'S HALFWAY TO HER GOAL."
"IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT SHE WOULD THEN GROW SO VIOLENT AS TO KILL A MAN."
"HER RAGE..."
GH
"...DEMANDS SOMETHING ELSE."
GH
GH
GH

FWAM
KRIK
KRAK
KRAK
COUGH!
SPLISH
WINCE
...IWA-NAGA-SAN.
THIS ISN'T DEDUCTIVE REASONING, IS IT?
NO, IT IS NOT.
FOR SOLUTION TWO, I AM MERELY A TELLER OF TALES.

BUT MEMBERS OF REAL COMMITTEES DRAMATIZE THINGS...
...TO MAKE THEIR ARGUMENTS MORE CONVINCING, TOO, DON'T THEY?
WELL...
...I CAN'T SAY THAT THEY DON'T...
THIS SITE'S VISITORS SUPPORT THE GHOST THEORY. THEY *WANT* TO BELIEVE IT.
WHAT DOES THE GHOST OF STEEL LADY NANASE WANT?
WHAT REDUCED HER TO THE LOWLY STATE OF A VENGEFUL SPIRIT?
I WILL SOLVE THESE MYSTERIES AND CEREMONIALLY DISPEL THE GHOST.
Amen.
Amen.
BUT THERE IS NO MYSTERY.
STEEL LADY NANASE IS A MONSTER THAT'S MOTIVATED BY THE THOUGHTS OF THE SITE'S VISITORS, ISN'T SHE?
THEY DON'T KNOW THAT.
THAT'S HOW WE ENDED UP WITH SO MANY UNEXPLAINED MYSTERIES ABOUT HER.
me: Withheld by Request 09/04 2
people who killed Karin Nana
: Withheld by Request 09/
/is/ she trying to tell u
Withheld by Request 09/
d Karin Nanase really kill
e: Withheld by Request 09/04
ot of people said she killed her da
money. Anyone would hold a grudge for tha
do it.
<070> Name: Withheld by Request 09/04 22:52 ID:htrnerhjn
I wonder about that.

AND THAT'S WHAT ALLOWS US TO CONSTRUCT THIS STORY...
...OF MORE THAN A MERE MONSTER— A STORY OF A GHOST WITH THE MIND AND HEART OF KARIN NANASE.
The Tale of Karin Nanase
THIS IS THE TALE OF KARIN NANASE.
I WILL PAINT FOR ALL TO SEE...
...THE PORTRAIT OF THIS IDOL'S UNKNOWN FACETS!
ばばん BA-BAM
...
My head hurts...

"LET'S GO BACK TO THE BEGINNING."
IDOL SUSPECTED OF KILLING FATHER?!
...mor has it that she ... motivated either ... the insurance ... her un...ployed father. A certain former employee was able to
"WHY WOULD AN IDOL LIKE KARIN NANASE, WHO HAD ONLY A NICHE FOLLOWING,
FIND HERSELF ACCUSED OF SUCH A TERRIFYING ACT AS PATRICIDE?"
"WAS THIS JUST A RUMOR THAT HAPPENED TO SPRING OUT OF NOWHERE?"
"NO, IT WAS NOT."

"THIS SUSPICION WAS PLANNED, THEN CREATED ARTIFICIALLY AND DELIBERATELY."
"KARIN NANASE FELL INTO A TRAP."
"THAT IS WHY SHE CAME BACK AS A GHOST."
"KARIN NANASE WANTS THE PERSON WHO SET HER UP AND DROVE HER TO SUICIDE..."
"...TO BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE."

"SHE NEEDS US TO REALIZE HER INTENTIONS, AND BRING THE TRUTH OF THE ACCUSATIONS TO LIGHT."
"WHEN WE DO, STEEL LADY NANASE WILL FINALLY REST IN PEACE."
ANONY-MOUS
ANON
"WHY WERE THE PATRICIDE CHARGES AGAINST KARIN NANASE BLOWN SO WILDLY OUT OF PROPORTION?
A FEW REASONS HAVE BEEN PUT FORTH."

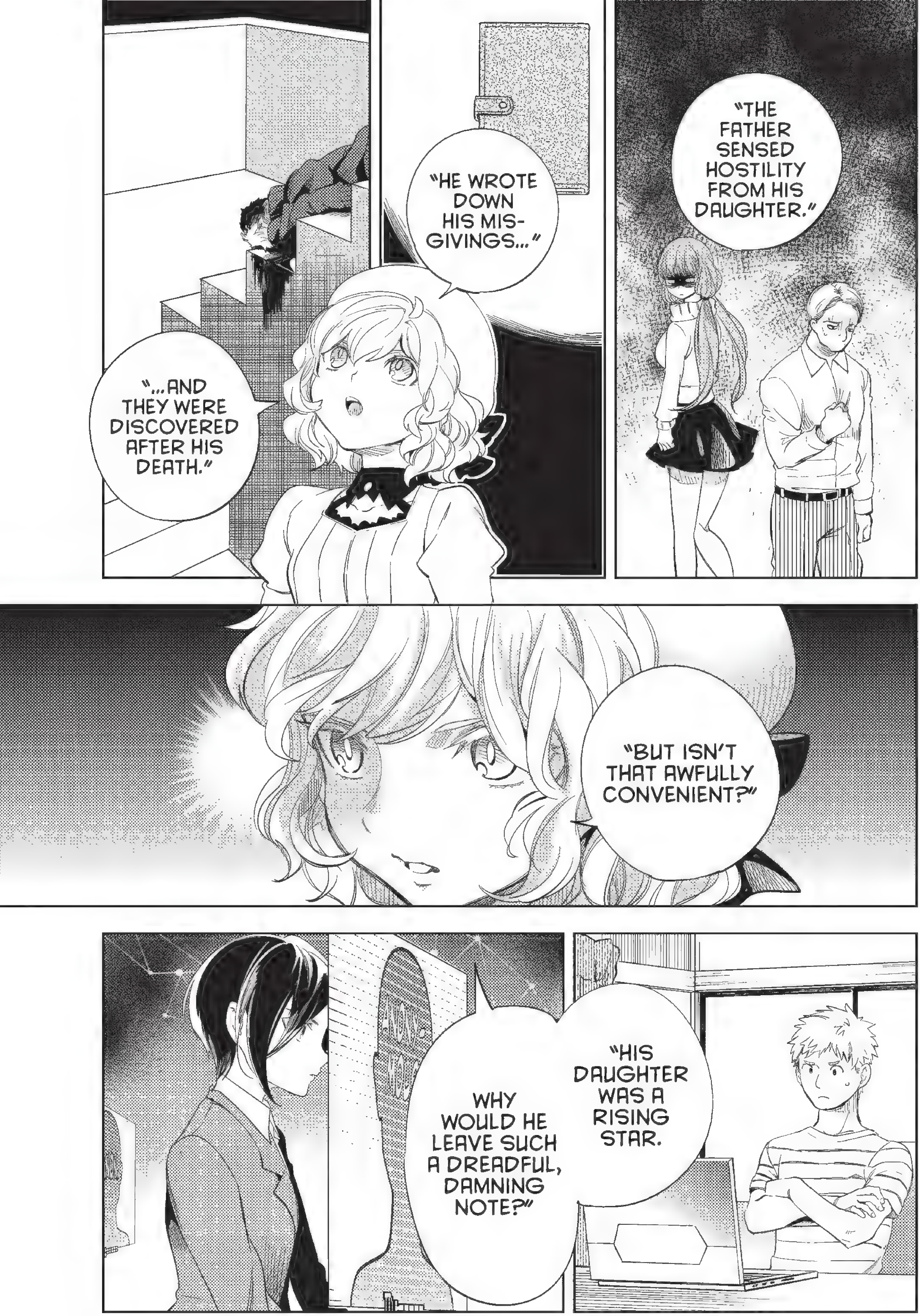
A POWERFUL AGENCY PLOTTED THE WHOLE THING TO TAKE A TV OR MOVIE ROLE FROM HER...
...AND GIVE IT TO ONE OF THEIR OWN.
ANOTHER IDOL WAS JEALOUS OF HER SUCCESS, AND MADE THE MATTER BIGGER THAN IT WAS. ET CETERA, ET CETERA.
Idol Fest
☆
in Osaka
PSST PSST
HEE HEE
ALL PLAUSIBLE THEORIES.
KARIN NANASE, A NOBODY WITH LITTLE FINANCIAL BACKING,
CUNNINGLY CLIMBED HER WAY UP TO THE TOP FROM THE DEATH SLOT OF LATE-NIGHT TELEVISION.

SHE HAD MANY ENEMIES,
AND IT IS BELIEVED THAT THESE THEORIES HAVE SHED LIGHT ON PART OF THE TRUTH.
"HOWEVER..."
"...CHARGES OF MURDER, JUST TO OVERTHROW AN UP-AND-COMING IDOL?
EVEN ASSUMING IT WAS SLANDER OR CONSPIRACY, ISN'T THAT A LITTLE FAR-FETCHED?"
ANONYMOUS
IT IS A PRETTY UNIQUE SORT OF SCANDAL.
NAMELESS
YEAH, SOME PEOPLE SAY THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT SO BELIEVABLE.

Karin Nanase Madly in Love?!
Idol Drowning in Debt
"IF YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE DOWN AN IDOL, IT WOULD BE MUCH MORE CREDIBLE TO FABRICATE SOME STORY ABOUT LOVE OR MONEY TROUBLES."
OL SUSPECTED OF KILLING FATHER?!
"EVEN IF HER FATHER DID HAPPEN TO DIE RECENTLY, A MURDER ACCUSATION...
...WOULD BE UNWIELDY AND EXTREME."
"THE MEDIA AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES WERE ONLY RIDING THE WAVE OF AN ACCUSATION THAT WAS ALREADY THERE."
IDOL SUSPECTED OF KILLING FATHER?!
KZH ZH
"WHICH BRINGS US BACK TO THE BEGINNING. WHO MADE THAT FIRST ACCUSATION?"
ZSH
?

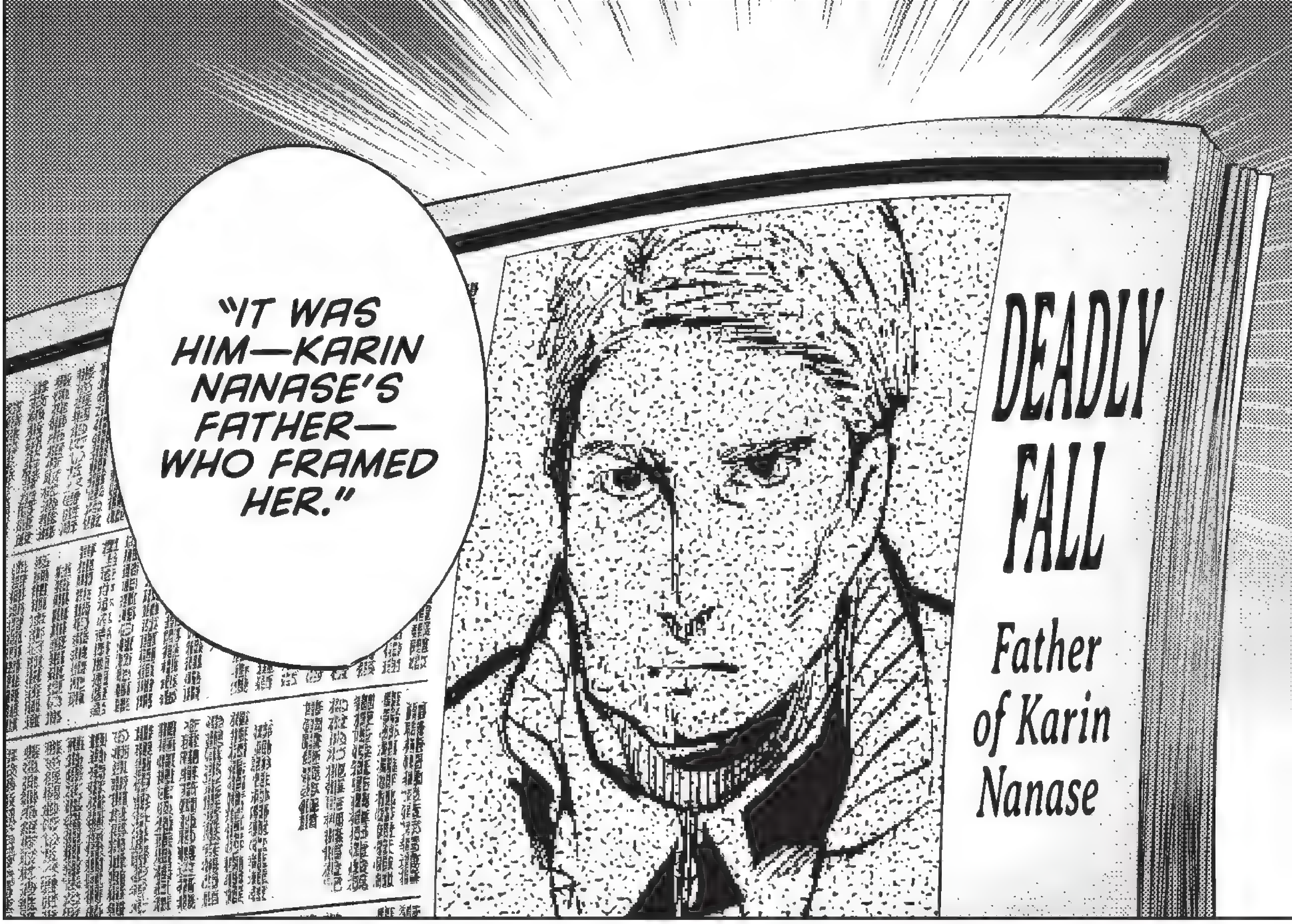
"THESE ACCUSATIONS WEREN'T STARTED BY JUST ANYBODY.
THEIR SOURCE IS CLEAR."
パッ
POP
ANON.
THE SOURCE?
WE KNOW WHO THAT IS?
THE ICE IS GOING TO GET VERY THIN FROM HERE...
Z-ZSH
"WHO ELSE?"
"IT WAS NONE OTHER THAN KARIN NANASE'S ALLEGED VICTIM HIMSELF.
HER FATHER IS HER ACCUSER."
Z-ZSH

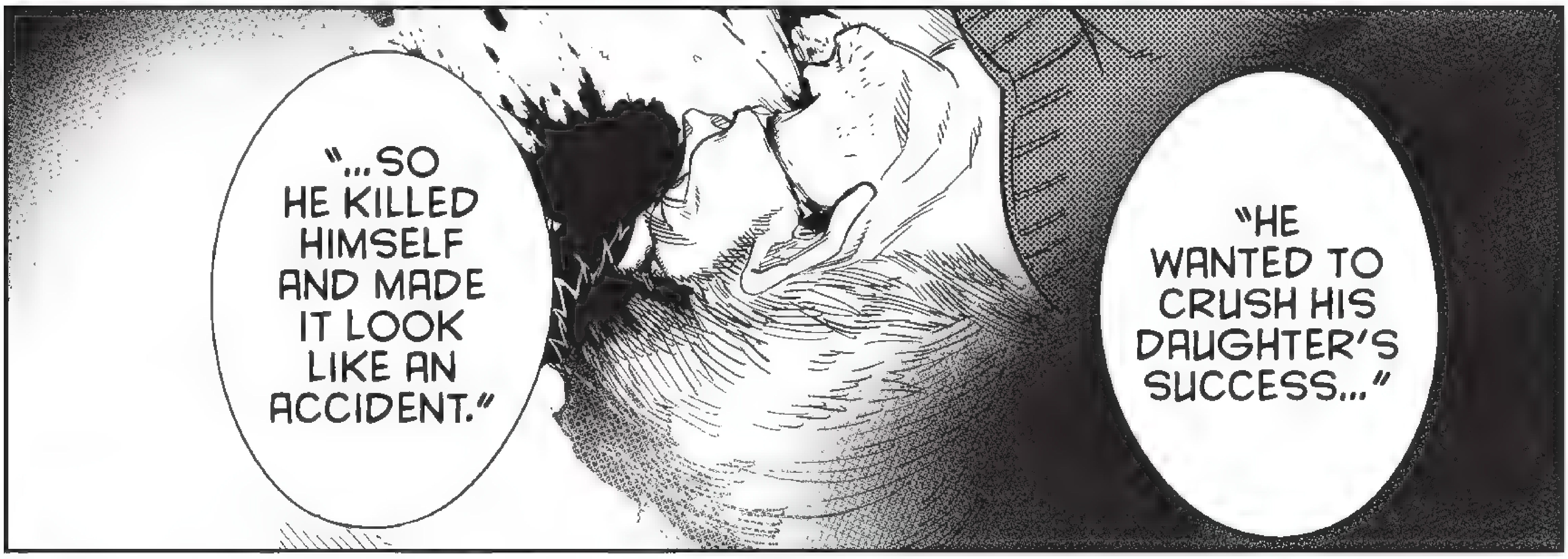
BEFORE HER FATHER TOOK HIS LETHAL FALL DOWN THOSE STAIRS,
HE COMPLAINED TO HIS FRIENDS ABOUT HIS DAUGHTER KARIN, NÉE HARUKO, NANASE.
HE EVEN LEFT A NOTE IN HIS OWN HAND THAT CLEARLY STATES HIS DAUGHTER'S MURDEROUS INTENT.
I feel like Haruko wants to kill me
By the time you read this note
I have no doubt that she will have murdered me
There is no doubt in my mind.
YEAH, HE DID!
IT WAS THAT NOTE OF HER FATHER'S THAT STARTED IT ALL.
POP
ANONYMOUS
NAME-LESS
THE ONE THAT SAYS HIS DAUGHTER'S GONNA KILL HIM? THAT WAS UP ON THE WIKI, TOO.
THEY DIDN'T DO A LOT OF ANALYSIS ON IT, BUT WE'RE PRETTY SURE IT'S REAL, RIGHT?
DID SHE HAVE A REASON TO KILL HER FATHER?
I HEARD NANASE DID HAVE A MOTIVE. SHE HATED HIM OR SOMETHING.
PA-POP
POP
Z-ZSH
AND IT WAS LEAKED BY A TABLOID? I FIRST SAW IT ON THE NET, I THINK...
AND THAT WASN'T UNTIL FIVE MONTHS AFTER HE DIED. THAT'S ANOTHER MYSTERY.

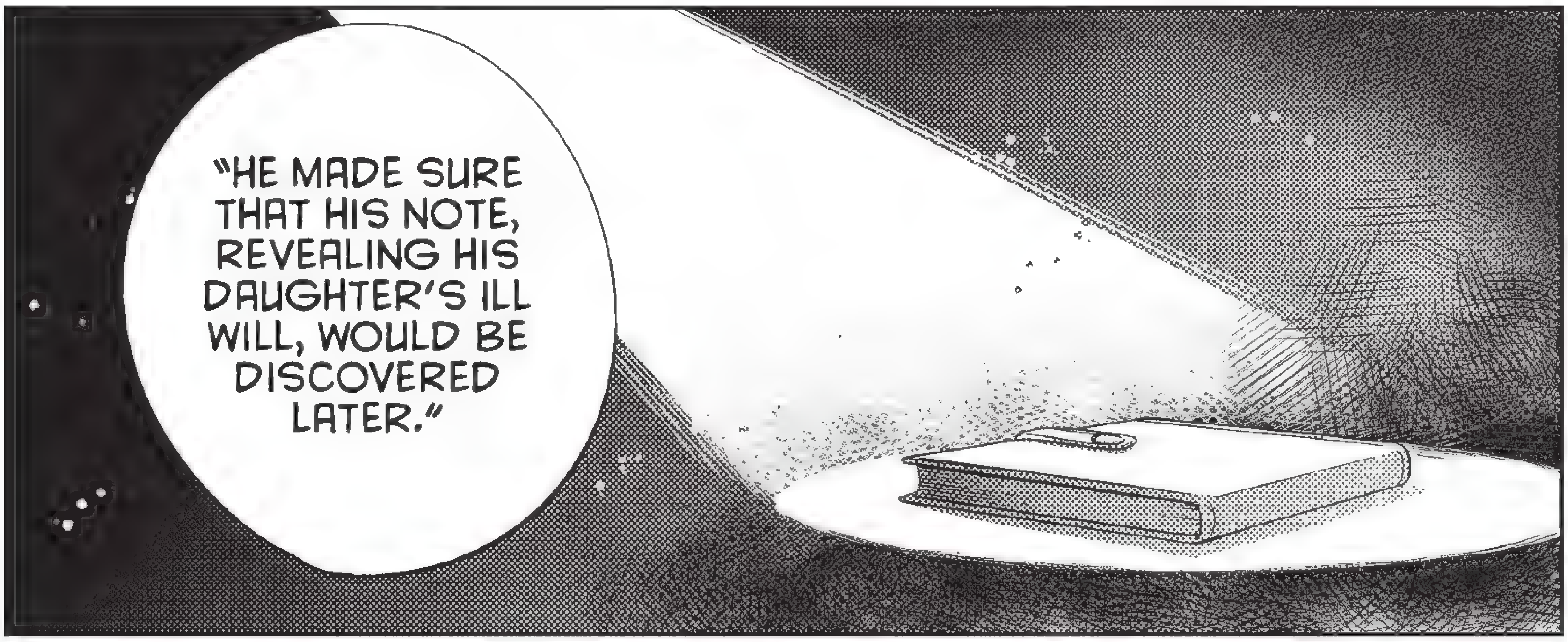

"THE FATHER SENSED HOSTILITY FROM HIS DAUGHTER."
"HE WROTE DOWN HIS MISGIVINGS..."
"...AND THEY WERE DISCOVERED AFTER HIS DEATH."
"BUT ISN'T THAT AWFULLY CONVENIENT?"
"HIS DAUGHTER WAS A RISING STAR.
WHY WOULD HE LEAVE SUCH A DREADFUL, DAMNING NOTE?"

"IF KARIN NANASE PUSHED HER FATHER DOWN THE STAIRS,
WHAM
AND WANTED IT TO LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT..."
"...SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN WARY OF ANY NOTES OR SIMILAR WRITINGS. SHE WOULD HAVE DESTROYED THEM ALL POSTHASTE."
"RUMOR HAD IT THAT HE WAS CONSTANTLY COMPLAINING ABOUT HER TO JUST ABOUT EVERYONE,
SO SHE WOULD HAVE COVERED ALL HER BASES."
"FURTHERMORE, IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT SHE WOULD RISK KILLING HER FATHER AT A TIME WHEN ALL HIS FRIENDS KNEW HE WAS UNHAPPY WITH HER."
"ONE OF THE FIRST PARTS OF HER PLAN WOULD BE TO MAKE SURE NO ONE CAUGHT ON TO HER INTENTIONS."

NAME-LESS
POP
KARIN NANASE WAS SMART.
SMART ENOUGH TO KEEP THE POLICE OFF HER TRAIL. THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE WAS SAYING.
BUT THAT'S A LOT OF MISTAKES FOR SOMEBODY THAT SMART.
ANONY-MOUS
POP
HMM, WHEN YOU PUT IT ALL TOGETHER LIKE THAT, IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE.
ANON.
CLACK
"EX-ACTLY."
"KARIN NANASE DID NOT KILL HER FATHER."
"SHE DIDN'T EVEN WANT TO KILL HIM."
"THEN WHY DID HE INSIST THAT SHE WAS OUT FOR HIS BLOOD?"


DEADLY FALL
Father of Karin Nanase
"IT WAS HIM—KARIN NANASE'S FATHER—WHO FRAMED HER."


"HE WANTED TO CRUSH HIS DAUGHTER'S SUCCESS..."
"...SO HE KILLED HIMSELF AND MADE IT LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT."


"HE MADE SURE THAT HIS NOTE, REVEALING HIS DAUGHTER'S ILL WILL, WOULD BE DISCOVERED LATER."

KZH
ZH
ZH
POP
ANON.
HER FATHER?
ANONYMOUS
POP
WHY WOULD HE DO THAT TO HIS OWN FLESH AND BLOOD?
NAMELESS
TAK
TAK
COME ON. YOU'RE DELUSIONAL.
I DON'T ENJOY LAYING BLAME ON THE DECEASED,
BUT YOU CAN'T SAY WITH CERTAINTY THAT THE NOTE WAS NOT WRITTEN IN SPITE.
TKKA-TK...
IT MAY BE POSSIBLE...
...THAT THIS STORY IS TRUE.
CLICK
"WE CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT THEIR FATHER-DAUGHTER RELATIONSHIP WAS LIKE."
"ACCORDING TO SOME NEWS REPORTS, HE QUIT HIS JOB...
...TO LIVE OFF OF HIS DAUGHTER'S INCOME."

MAYBE HE WAS DISGUSTED AT THE FACT THAT HIS DAUGHTER COULD MAKE MORE IN A MONTH OR TWO THAN HE MADE IN A YEAR.
MAYBE HIS HEALTH FAILED, AND HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO RETIRE AND DEPEND ON HIS DAUGHTER.
MAYBE HE FELL INTO DEPRESSION AS HIS DAUGHTER CONTINUED TO SUPPORT HIM WITHOUT COMPLAINT.
Resignation
OR MAYBE THE GOSSIP ABOUT A WORKING-AGE MAN SPONGING OFF OF HIS DAUGHTER WAS BEGINNING TO WEIGH DOWN ON HIM.
I BELIEVE IT IS SAFE TO ASSUME THAT THE FATHER WAS NOT HAPPY WITH HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS DAUGHTER.
HARUKO LOOKS AT ME LIKE I'M DIRT.
SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN SO PROUD OF HOW MUCH SMARTER SHE IS...

SLAM
HE UNWILLINGLY LEFT HIS JOB DUE TO HEALTH PROBLEMS OR LAYOFFS, AND HE HAD DIFFICULTY GAINING NEW EMPLOYMENT.
BUT HIS DAUGHTER'S CONSPICUOUS STARDOM HELPED HIM MAINTAIN HIS LIFESTYLE, SO HE GAINED NO SYMPATHY FROM HIS FRIENDS.
COME ON, SHE'S YOUR DAUGHTER. WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? BADMOUTHING A NICE GIRL LIKE HER.
INSTEAD, THEY WERE JEALOUS, AND REFUSED TO UNDERSTAND HIS ANGUISH.
IF THAT'S WHAT HE WAS GOING THROUGH, OF COURSE HIS MENTAL WELL-BEING BEGAN TO SUFFER.
HARUKO...

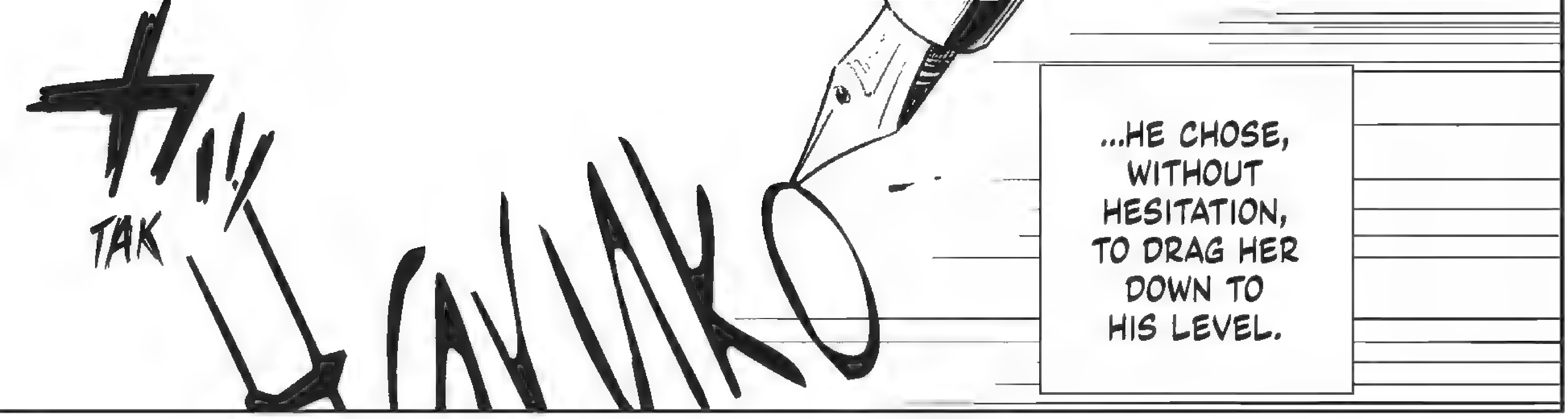
IF HE WAS AT THE RIGHT AGE, AND WAS THE KIND OF PERSON WHO SAW HIS WORK AS THE THING THAT GAVE HIS LIFE MEANING AND VALUE,
THE SITUATION WOULD BE ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT, AND WITHOUT SYMPATHY, IT WOULD BE UNBEARABLE.
SO HE BEGAN TO RESENT HIS DAUGHTER.
ズ ZH
HARUKO...
I HATE HER.
ズ ZH
ズ ZH
I USED TO HAVE PURPOSE. I USED TO HAVE FRIENDS WHO UNDERSTOOD ME.

BUT HARUKO TOOK THEM ALL AWAY FROM ME.
BAM
CRACK
GH
GH
GH
GH
FLICK
KA-CHAK
DAD? ARE YOU HOME?
COLLEGE IS ON BREAK AND I DON'T HAVE WORK TODAY, SO HERE I AM.

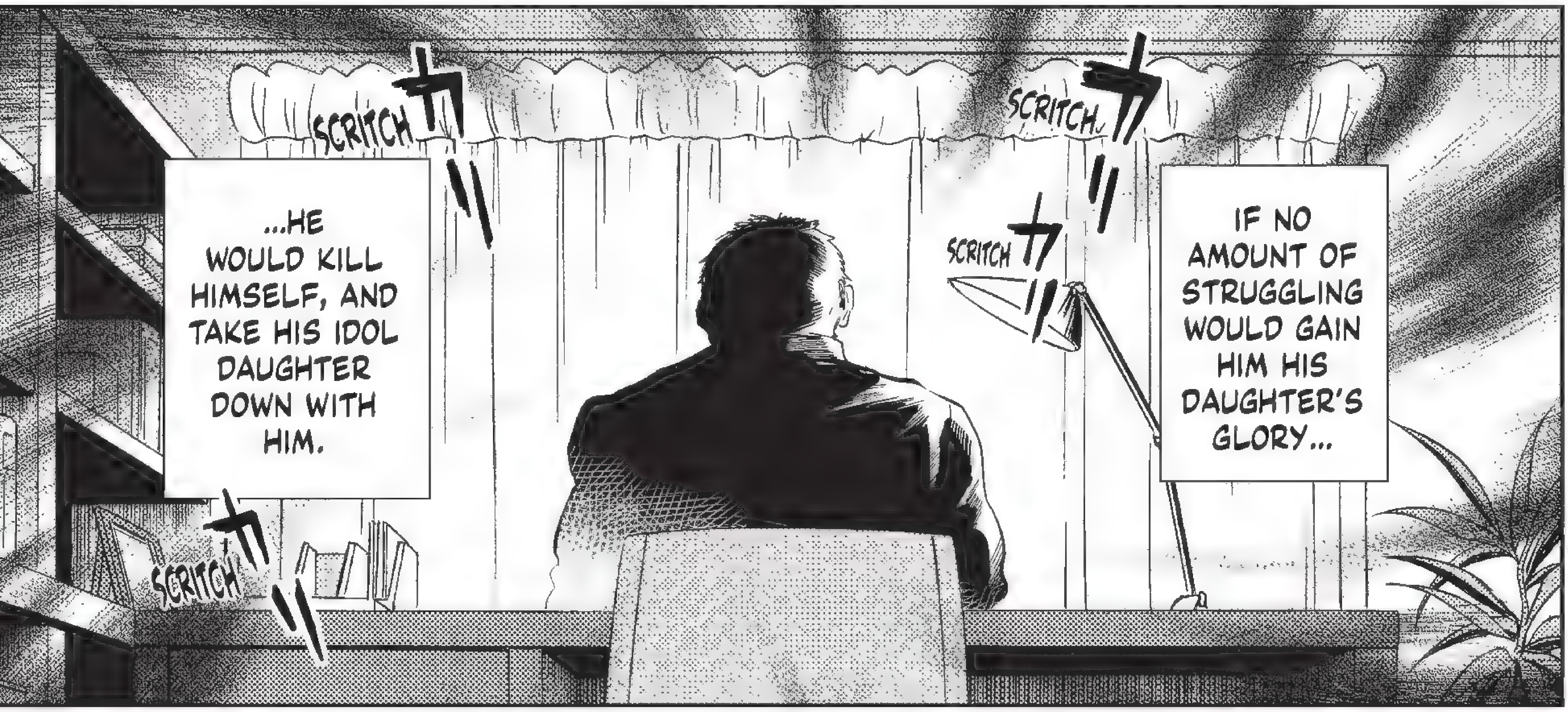
I'M HOME.
ぱち
CLICK
I BOUGHT US SOME DINNER. LET'S EAT TOGETHER.
CLACK
かた

I'M GETTING MORE WORK NOW, THANKS TO THAT LATE-NIGHT SHOW I'M ON.
OH.
SOUNDS LIKE THINGS ARE GOING WELL.
...
もぐ MUNCH
もぐ MUNCH
MY NEXT BIG THING IS A CONCERT!
I'M GOING TO WEAR THAT SILLY COSTUME, AND SWING A FLAMETHROWER AROUND WHILE I SING.
IT'S NOT... A BIG VENUE, BUT...
THAT'S GREAT.

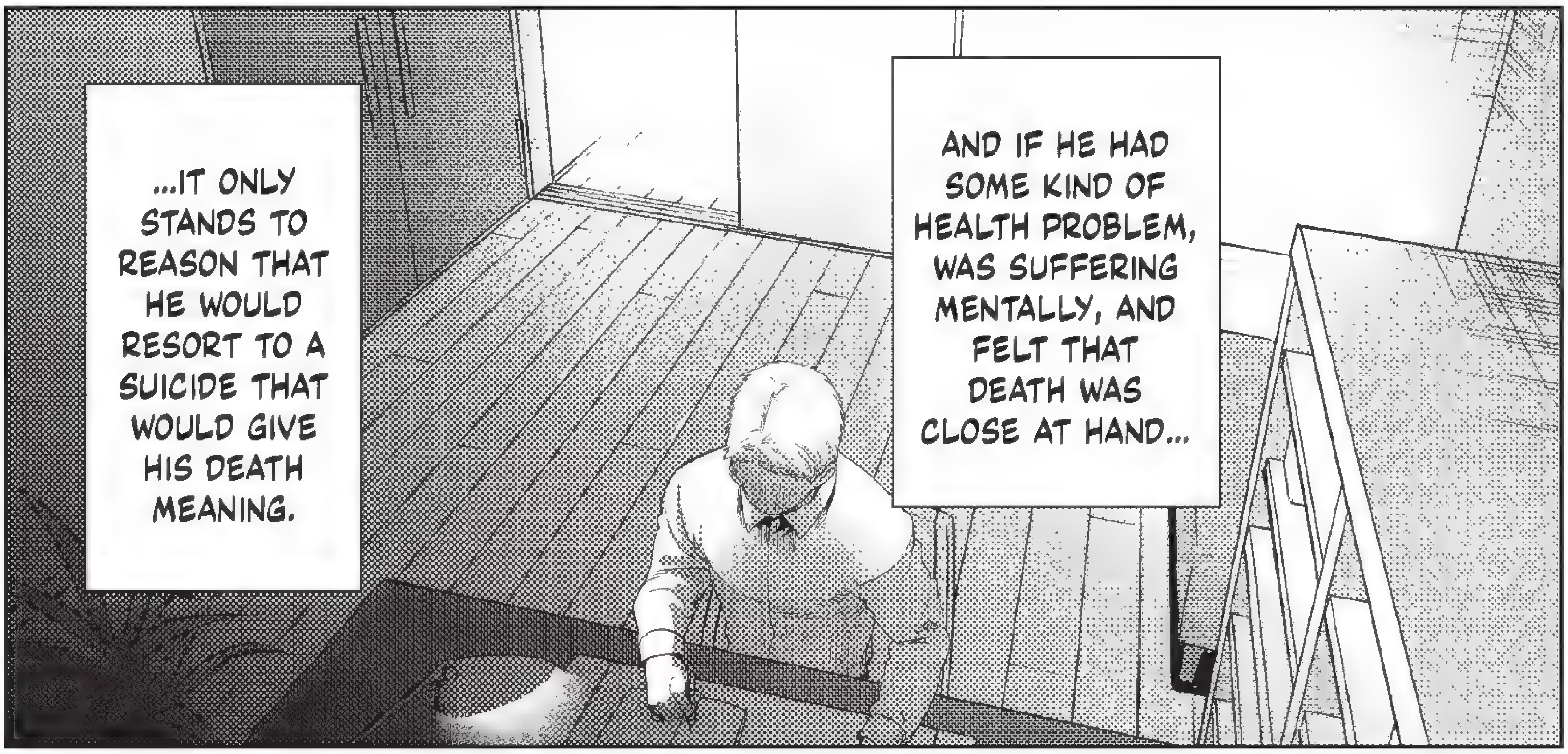
I'LL HAVE TO GO SEE IT.
!
WHAT...? REALLY?
RUSTLE
は!!っ
SHOULD WE INVITE HATSUMI, TOO?
HE DIDN'T FAIL TO NOTICE THE GREAT DIVIDE BETWEEN HIS OWN WORTHLESSNESS AND HIS DAUGHTER'S SPARKLING IDOL.
INSTEAD OF TRYING TO BRING HIMSELF UP...


...HE CHOSE, WITHOUT HESITATION, TO DRAG HER DOWN TO HIS LEVEL.
TAK
HARUKO

I feel like Haruko wants to kill me.


SCRITCH
IF NO AMOUNT OF STRUGGLING WOULD GAIN HIM HIS DAUGHTER'S GLORY...
SCRITCH
SCRITCH
...HE WOULD KILL HIMSELF, AND TAKE HIS IDOL DAUGHTER DOWN WITH HIM.
SCRITCH

By the time you read this note,


AND IF HE HAD SOME KIND OF HEALTH PROBLEM, WAS SUFFERING MENTALLY, AND FELT THAT DEATH WAS CLOSE AT HAND...
...IT ONLY STANDS TO REASON THAT HE WOULD RESORT TO A SUICIDE THAT WOULD GIVE HIS DEATH MEANING.

By the time you read this note,
I have no doubt that she will have murdered me.
There's no doubt in my mind.
"AND THE KEY TO THAT MEANING..."
"...WAS IN HIS TIME BOMB—THE NOTE HE LEFT BEHIND, TELLING OF HIS DAUGHTER'S EVIL SCHEME."
57> Name: Withheld by Request 09/04 23:03 ID:umyar
Is that what happened?
PA-POP
<158> Name: Withheld by Request 09/04 23
That's a scary thought.
Her dad was mentally unwell?
<159> Name: Withheld by Request 09/04 23
I can see a celebrity being hated by her relatives
PA-POP
Name: Withheld by Request 09/04 23:03 ID:54gfgn
didn't do anything wrong
!

I COULDN'T TELL YOU WHAT MALICIOUS RESULTS HER FATHER HOPED FOR.
BUT EVEN IN AS DARK A PLACE AS HE WAS, I DOUBT HIS GRUDGE WENT SO FAR AS TO WISH FOR HER DEMISE.
MAYBE HE ONLY WANTED TO MAKE HER LIFE MISERABLE.
HE MADE SURE HIS NOTE WOULD BE FOUND AND GIVEN TO THE MEDIA AFTER HIS DEATH.
AND BELIEVING THAT THAT WOULD HAVE THE DESIRED EFFECT...
...HE DELIBERATELY FELL DOWN THE STAIRS.

AND HE GOT WHAT HE WANTED—THE RISING STAR KARIN NANASE CAME CRASHING TO EARTH.
BUT THE FATHER'S PLOT WAS TOO EFFECTIVE. THE MEDIA WAS IN AN UPROAR.
THE ACCUSATIONS SNOWBALLED...
...AND DROVE KARIN NANASE TO THE EDGE.
I feel like Haruko wants to kill me.
By the time you read this note,
I have no doubt that she will have murdered me.
There's no doubt in my mind.

SNAP
HELLO, NANASE-SAN.
CHAK
WE'RE FROM WEEKLY CELEBRITY ZOOM!
GRIN GRIN
YOU'RE IN HIGH DEMAND, NANASE-SAN—LINED UP TO APPEAR IN MOVIES AND A TV DRAMA.
BOW
AND YOU'LL BE PLAYING THE LEAD IN THAT DRAMA? I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE IT.
INCIDENTALLY, THERE'S A CERTAIN RUMOR GOING AROUND THE INTERNET. HAVE YOU HEARD IT?
TWITCH
WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE YOUR FATHER MEANT?
ANY IDEAS?
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
FSH
OH!
I'M IN A HURRY.
NANASE-SAN!

PLEASE, NANASE-SAN! WAIT!
DASH
YOUR FATHER'S NOTE...
...MADE IT QUITE CLEAR...
...THAT YOU WERE GOING TO KILL HIM!
NANASE-SAN!
TOTTER
とた…
TOT
と…
HF
HFF

UNTIL SHE WAS CRUSHED UNDER A PILE OF STEEL BEAMS.
SHOULD YOU BE SAYING THIS?
YOU'RE REALLY MAKING KARIN NANASE'S FATHER OUT TO BE A BAD GUY.
IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL, YOU MIGHT GET PEOPLE TO GO OUT AND DESECRATE HIS GRAVE.
カタ TKKA
カタ TKKA
KARIN NANASE WOULD BE IN THE SAME TOMB.
SO NO ONE SHOULD HURT IT.
TKKA-TK
カタタ TKKA-TK-TK
カタタタ
AND I'VE THOUGHT OF A WAY TO SMOOTH IT OVER.
BUT RIGHT NOW, OUR PRIORITY IS TO FINISH POSTING THIS SOLUTION.
カチャ CLICK
タタタ TK-TK-TK
タ TK

And he got what he
star Karin Nanase
But the Father's pl
The media was in an
The accusations snowba

and drove Karin Nanase to the edge.

<158> Name: kuebiko 09/04 23:17 ID:Mmimn43
Until she was crushed under a pile of
steel beams

BUT...
SNAP
GASP
BA-BAM
WAH!
FWSH
ZSH
SNAP
SNAP
むく
RISE
GRGH

HM?
ずる ZLRR
IS SOME-THING THE MATTER?
ぶら DANGLE
ぶら DANGLE
UHH...
UH... NO.
UM.
カタ TKKA
カタ TKKA
カタ TKKA
カタ TKKA
カタ TKKA
IT—
IT'S NOTHING.
AAAAUGH.
もた LAG
もた LAG
ANYWAY, JUST KEEP TYPING!
SNAP
ポロリ TUMBLE
I AM.
Don't rush me.
KA-CLICK
カタン

KARIN NANASE LOVED HER FATHER.
OTHERWISE, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NO SKIN OFF HER NOSE IF HE'D THOUGHT SHE WANTED TO KILL HIM.
(no title)
Catch you later, dweebs.
倉坂
MAKURAZAKA
THE FATHER SHE LOVED DIDN'T UNDERSTAND HER.
AND NOW HE WAS EVEN CLAIMING THAT SHE WAS CAPABLE OF KILLING HIM.
SHE WAS LEFT IN DESPAIR.

DESPAIR SO DEEP, SHE COULDN'T EVEN MUSTER THE WILL TO TRY TO AVOID AN AVALANCHE OF STEEL GIRDERS.
KARIN NANASE'S DEATH WAS AN ACCIDENT BORDERING ON SUICIDE...
I KNOW THIS STORY IS FAKE, BUT IT'S TRUE THAT SHE WAS NOT HAPPY IN THE DAYS LEADING UP TO HER DEATH.
WHAT IF THERE ARE MORE FACTS THAT MATCH UP WITH IWA-NAGA-SAN'S STORY?
カタ TKKA
カタ TKKA
カタ TKKA
タタタ TK-TK-TK
BAM

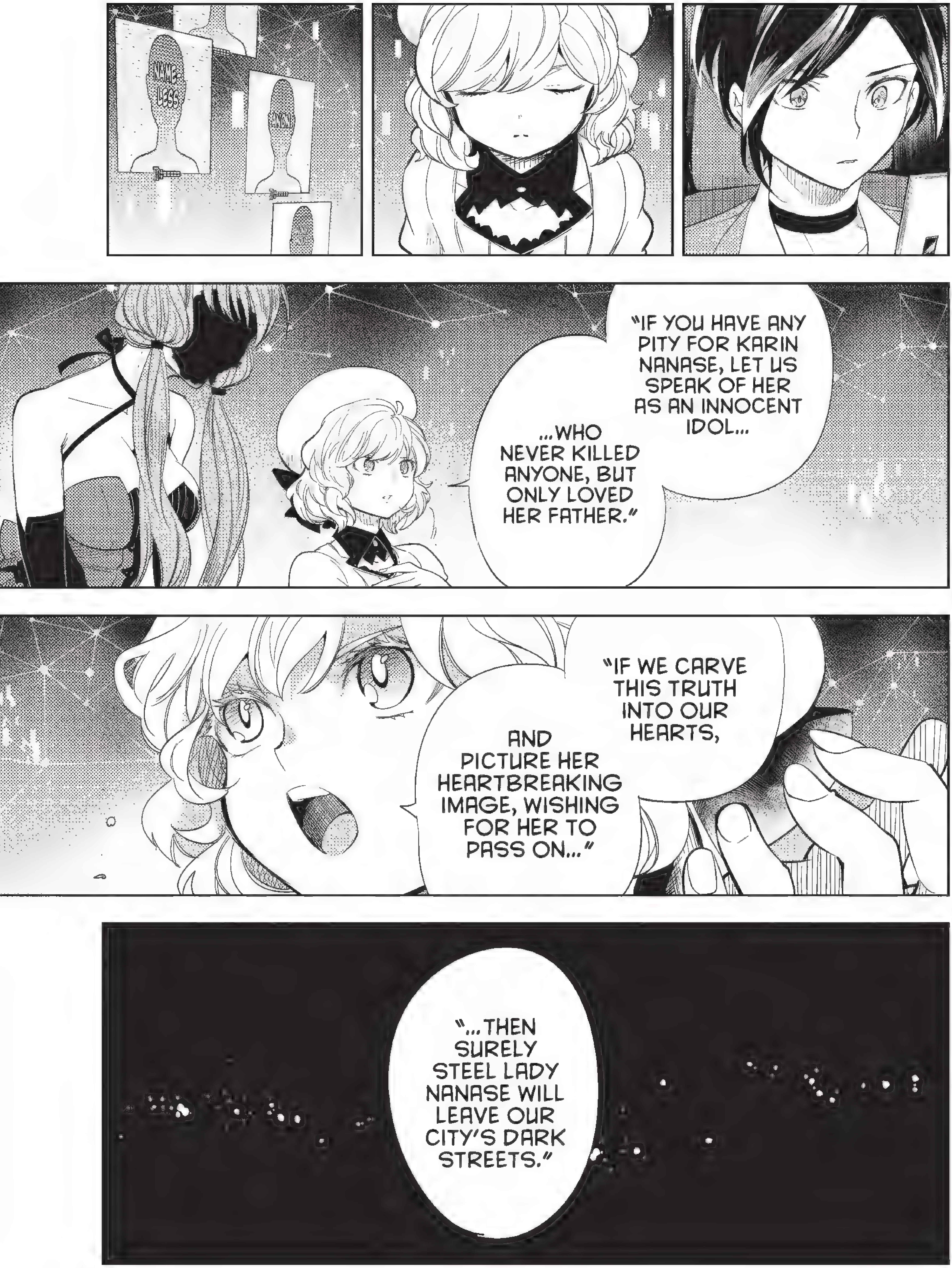
AND SO KARIN NANASE DIED.
PHWAH?!...
AND UPON HER DEATH, SHE VISITED THE AFTERLIFE.
The afterlife

BUT ONCE THERE, SHE HAPPENED UPON HER PREDECEASED FATHER...
...AND SHE LEARNED THE TRUTH FROM HIS VERY LIPS.
SHE LEARNED THE TRUTH FROM HER FATHER IN THE AFTERLIFE?
DO YOU HAVE TO BE SO OCCULT?!
FWSH
IF SHE DIDN'T LEARN IT IN THE AFTERLIFE, THEN WHERE *DID* SHE LEARN IT?
TKKA TKKA TKKA TKKA
TK-TK-TK
IF YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE SURE KARIN NANASE COMES BACK AS A GHOST,
TKKA-TK
YOU NEED TO PUT HER IN A SITUATION WHERE SHE MUST ACCEPT WITHOUT QUESTION THE FACT THAT IT WAS ALL HER FATHER'S TRAP.
BAM

SHE RESIGNS HERSELF TO DEATH BY STEEL BEAMS, BUT THEN COMES BACK AS A GHOST HELL-BENT ON CORRECTING SOME INJUSTICE.
IT'S A CONTRADICTION, AND THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO RECONCILE IT.
OR RATHER, IT'S ENOUGH TO INCULCATE SOLUTION NUMBER TWO.
TKKA-TK
カタタ
BAM
タン
WHEN SHE DIED, SHE WAS IN DESPAIR. SHE HAD NO LINGERING ATTACHMENT TO THIS WORLD.
BUT WHEN SHE LEARNED THAT HER FATHER SPITEFULLY SABOTAGED HER CAREER...
ZH
ズ…
...THE MORTIFICATION WAS TOO MUCH—SHE COULD NO LONGER PASS ON TO HER ETERNAL REST.

ゴオオォ
ZWOOOHHH

THE GHOST OF STEEL LADY NANASE IS HAUNTING MAKURAZAKA IN AN ATTEMPT TO TEACH US OF HER TRAGEDY.
GONG
ゴォ
GONG
ゴォ
ZH ZH
ズリズリ
NOT ONLY IS SHE INNOCENT OF KILLING HER FATHER, BUT IN FACT, HE KILLED HER.
SO SHE RETURNED TO OUR WORLD, AND IS TRYING TO TEACH US THE TRUTH.
KARIN NANASE LOVED HER FATHER, AND HE BETRAYED HER. THAT IS WHAT TURNED HER INTO THIS FIEND.
IT IS WHY SHE HAS BEEN REDUCED TO A HIDEOUS MONSTER.


NAME-LESS
ANON
"IF YOU HAVE ANY PITY FOR KARIN NANASE, LET US SPEAK OF HER AS AN INNOCENT IDOL...
...WHO NEVER KILLED ANYONE, BUT ONLY LOVED HER FATHER."
"IF WE CARVE THIS TRUTH INTO OUR HEARTS,
AND PICTURE HER HEARTBREAKING IMAGE, WISHING FOR HER TO PASS ON..."
"...THEN SURELY STEEL LADY NANASE WILL LEAVE OUR CITY'S DARK STREETS."

"IF YOU HEAR AND ACCEPT HER STORY, YOU CAN DISPEL HER GRIEF."
"CAST YOUR VOTE IN HER FAVOR."
"HER FACE GONE, CUMBERSOME I-BEAM IN HAND,
KARIN NANASE APPEARS BEFORE US IN THAT PAINFULLY FLUTTERY MINISKIRT."
ANONY MOUS
"WE MUSTN'T LEAVE HER TO WANDER THE NIGHT AS SUCH A PITIFUL SPECTRE."

PHWAH
"KARIN NANASE,
NÉE HARUKO NANASE."
ZH
ZH
"WILL WE NOT USE OUR PRAYERS TO SEND HER TO HER HEAVENLY REST?"
SWOO

GRAB
POOR KARIN-CHAN!!
ANONY-MOUS
POP
THAT'S AWFUL...AND DEFINITELY ENOUGH TO TURN SOMEBODY INTO A GHOST.
LESS
ANON.
PA-POP
NAME-LESS
POP
WOULD ANYONE BE THAT JEALOUS OF HIS OWN DAUGHTER'S SUCCESS?
ZLRR

KA-POW
GRAB
ANONYMOUS
Z-ZSH
AND IT'D BE THAT MUCH MORE TRAUMATIC IF SHE HAD NO IDEA HOW HER FATHER FELT.
NAMELESS
I'LL NEVER THINK OF STEEL LADY NANASE THE SAME WAY AGAIN.
KZH ZH
BUT I GET HOW HER DAD FEELS, TOO.
TK-TK
IT MUST BE ROUGH HAVING A CELEBRITY IN THE FAMILY.
PA-POP
I WISH I COULD BE KARIN NANASE'S FATHER.
POP
WHIMPER
ANON.
I WANT HER TO GO TO HEAVEN...

ZH-ZH
KHEEN
PSH
GLOOP
WHAM
FWAM
GRNK
TK
TK
TK
KZH

ne: Withheld by Request 09/04 23:38 ID:nftvdeqty
will our learning the truth really send her to
aven?

ame: Withheld by Request 09/04 23:38 ID:qrtv54ud
thought Karin was a tough girl, but... you never know.
ny daughter would probably be really hurt to find out
er father betrayed her.

Name: Withheld by Request 09/04 23:39 ID:at346y5bvdghj
Wow, it can happen to a hottie like her.
Maybe she ter all.

Name: Wi ld b st 09/04 23:39 ID:y4j67xwqyt
Damn, her old man s petty!

Name: Withheld by Request 09/04 23:39 ID:hutyui8k
Sounds like a plausible backstory for a pretty venge
spirit girl.

YOU TALKED ABOUT HER GOING TO THE AFTERLIFE!
BUT THEY'RE EATING IT UP!
ALTHOUGH IT **DOES** MAKE YOU FEEL SORRY FOR KARIN NANASE.
I GUESS WHEN PEOPLE BELIEVE IN GHOSTS, THEN THEY CAN ACCEPT A STORY ABOUT A GHOST IN THE AFTERLIFE.
ON THE OTHER HAND, THAT OCCULT ELEMENT DESTROYS ALL ITS REALISM.
ONLY VERY FEW PEOPLE WOULD TAKE THIS THEORY SERIOUSLY ENOUGH TO DO ANYTHING DRASTIC.
IT'S A CONCLUSION THAT ADMITS THAT STEEL LADY NANASE IS A GHOST, BUT STILL LEADS TO VICTORY FOR OUR SIDE.

Name: kuebiko 09/04 23:30 ID:Mmimn43
And so Karin Nanase died.

And upon her death, she visited the fterlife. But once there, she met her edeceased father, and she learned the uth from his very lips.

Name: kuebiko 09/04 23:31 ID:Mmimn43
When she died, she was in despair. She had no lingering attachment to this world.

But when she learned that her father spitefully sabotaged her career, the mortification was too much—she couldn't pass on to her eternal rest now.

ゴォ
WHOOSH
ドカッ
KAPOW
KA-CRACK

SWAY
KLONG
GRAB
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
GRG
GRG
GRG

GRRRG
HEY.
LOOK.
FWAM
IS SHE GETTING WEAKER?
RIKKA-SAN MUST NOT HAVE PREDICTED THAT WE WOULD HAVE ARRIVED AT AN IRREGULAR SOLUTION SO QUICKLY...
...AFTER FIRST SUBMITTING SUCH AN ORTHODOX SOLUTION.
THUD
THE PEOPLE WANTED TO BELIEVE IN A GHOST, AND I GAVE THEM A SOLUTION THAT REQUIRES HER TO BE A GHOST.
THAT RAISES MY CHANCES OF WINNING THEIR SUPPORT.
AND I BELIEVE THAT KURÔ-SENPAI WOULD HAVE HAD NO TROUBLE MAKING THAT FUTURE A REALITY.

BUT...
...THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE'VE WON YET.
WAVER
POP
I CAN BUY THE THING ABOUT HER FATHER SETTING A TRAP FOR HER.
BUT I DON'T KNOW...
ANON.
POP
NAME-LESS
I THINK IT COULD'VE HAPPENED THAT WAY, TOO, BUT HOW'S SHE GONNA GET THE MESSAGE ACROSS IF ALL SHE DOES IS SWING THAT STEEL BEAM AROUND?
I KNOW, RIGHT? IT REALLY JUST LOOKS LIKE SHE'S SIMPLY RUNNING AROUND HATING ON THE WHOLE WORLD.
KZH
ZH
ZH
I DOUBT SHE'D PUT THE BEAM DOWN JUST BECAUSE PEOPLE LEARNED THE TRUTH.
SHE DID KILL A COP.
Z-ZSH
HOW IS KILLING SOMEBODY SUPPOSED TO PROVE YOUR INNOCENCE?
TK
TK
"STEEL LADY NANASE" DOESN'T SOUND LIKE THE NAME OF SOMEBODY WHO WOULD QUIETLY PASS ON TO THE NEXT LIFE.
KZH
ZH

FZH
ZH
ZH
SWAY
OOHH
RIKKA-SAN HAS RECLAIMED THE CURRENT.
KZH
ZH
IF THE GHOST OF KARIN NANASE'S APPEARANCE AND BITTERNESS WERE MORE LIKE A PROPER SPIRIT'S, SOLUTION TWO MIGHT HAVE CLOSED THE CURTAIN ON THIS AFFAIR.
BUT UNFORTUNATELY, THE NAME "STEEL LADY NANASE" IS A TOUGH OBSTACLE TO OVERCOME.
thheld by Request. 09/04
eel Lady Nanase" doesn't
Somebody who woul

<323> Name: Withheld by Request 09/04 23:43 ID:r32trdtH
I doubt she'd put the beam down just because people learned the truth.

<324> Name: Withheld by Request 09/04 23:44 ID:kiaqubsaw2
She did kill a cop.

<325> Name: Withheld by Request 09/04 23:44 ID:wseryfc
How is killing somebody supposed to prove your innocence?

<326> Name: Withheld by Request 09/04 23:44 ID:8ju9ywn
"Steel Lady Nanase" doesn't sound like the name of somebody who would quietly pass on to the next life.

PEOPLE DON'T EXPECT SPIRITS WITH THE USUAL COMPLAINTS AND DEMANDS...
...TO RUN AROUND IN GET-UPS LIKE THAT WITH A NAME LIKE HERS.
FWOOSH
BUT ONCE AGAIN, RIKKA-SAN HAS FAILED TO COMPLETELY VETO MY STORY.

ぱち BLINK
すか SKFF
...
IF I KEEP SELECTING STORIES THAT PEOPLE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SCREEN ARE LIKELY TO WANT AND BELIEVE...
...THEN MY STORIES WILL HAVE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF PERSUASIVE POWER, AND RIKKA-SAN WILL BE FORCED TO ACCOUNT FOR THEM.

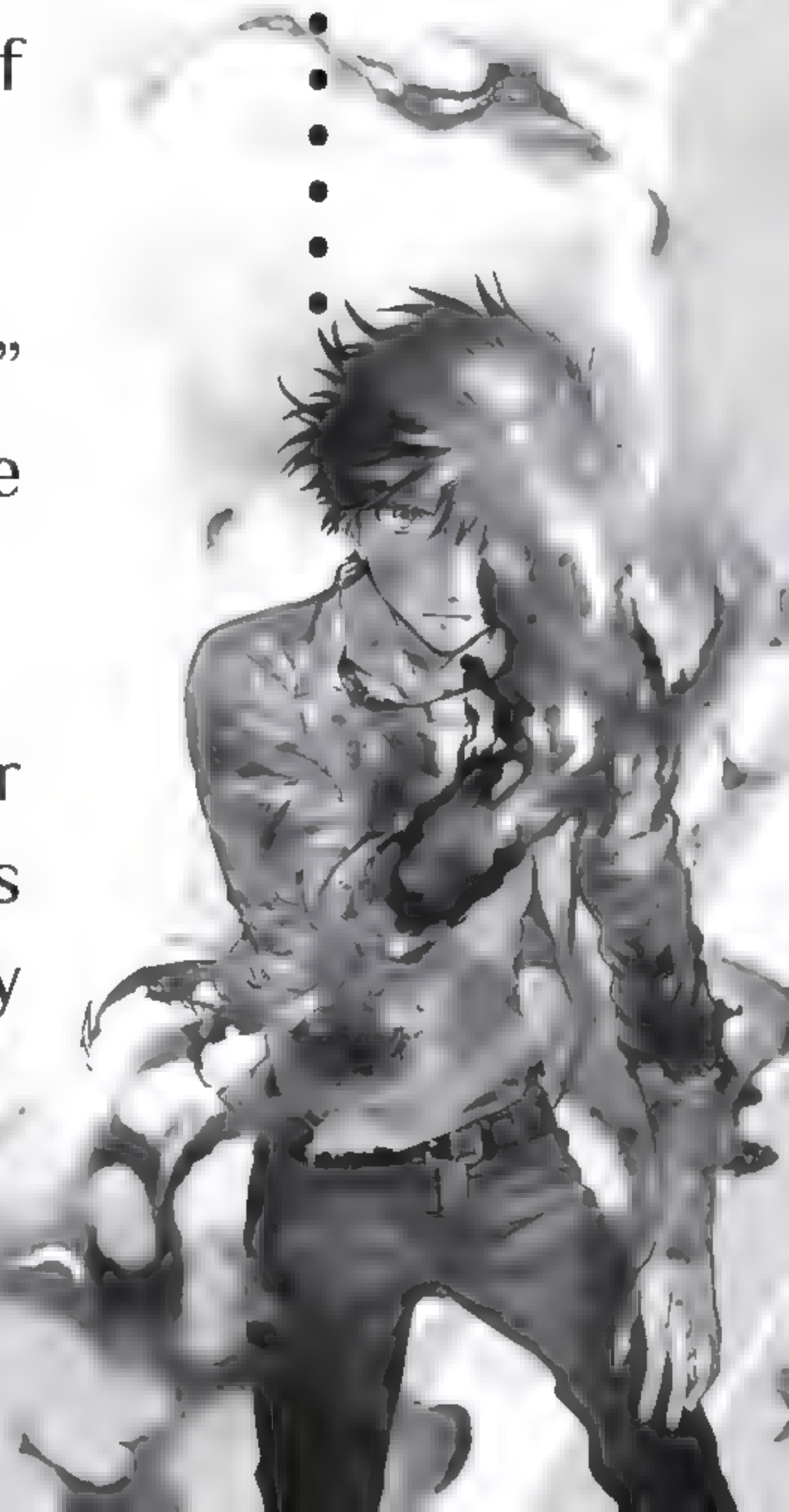
AND DOESN'T EVERYONE LOVE A STORY WHERE A HOPELESSLY OUTNUMBERED MINORITY...
...COMES FROM BEHIND TO DEFEAT THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY?
CLICK
NOW LET'S MOVE ON...
...TO SOLUTION THREE.
KZH
ZH
ZH
ZSH

◆ *TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 6*

Please pick up the next volume, too!

Staff
Asai, Otôtamu, Kuro Shima, Tonpu
Editors
O-kawa, T-da (honorifics excluded)

Things an Author is Nervous About All Over Again



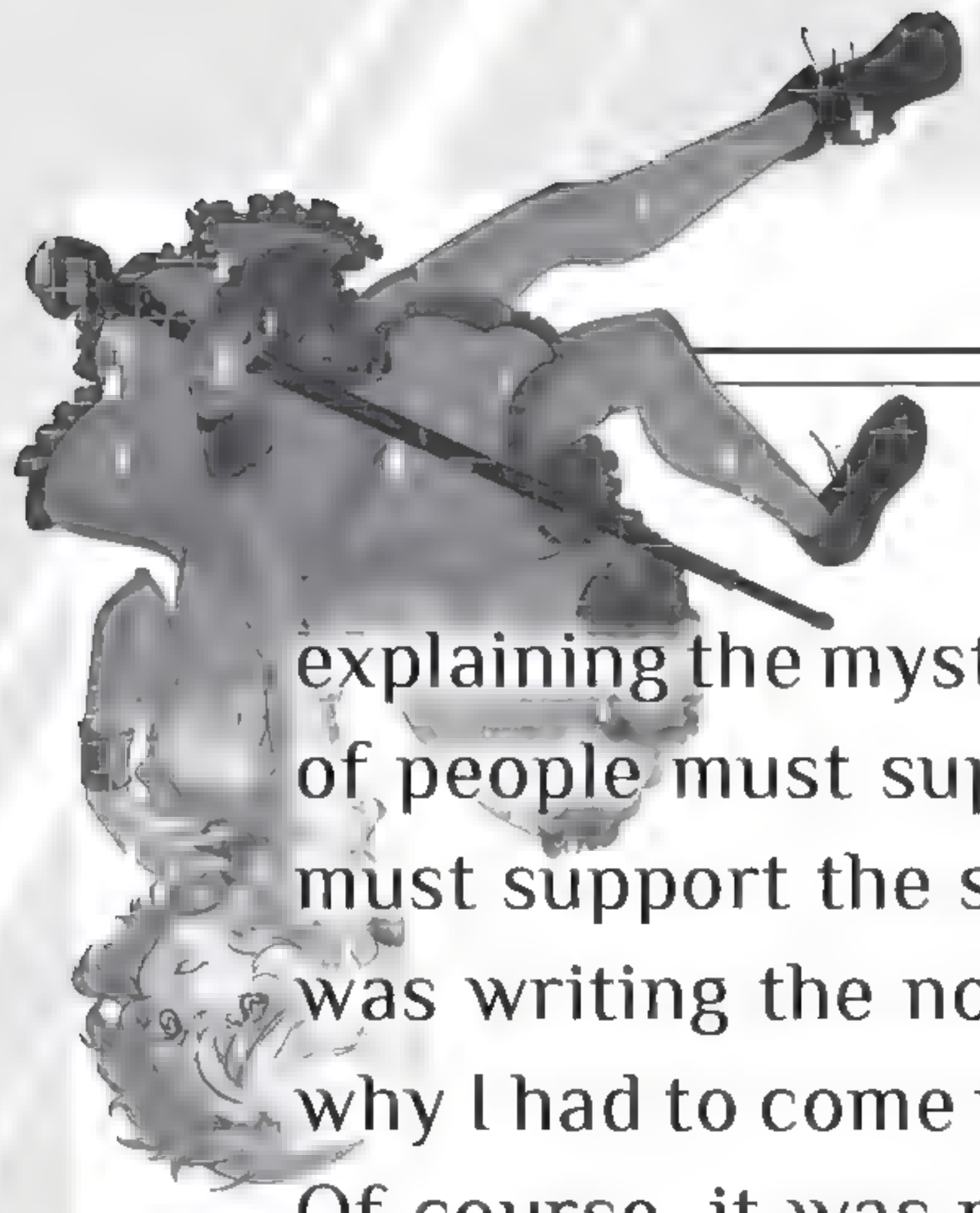
I am the author, Kyo Shirodaira (I don't really do anything), and this is volume five. The novel was contained in a single volume of moderate thickness, but this version is now in its fifth volume. Nevertheless, we have reached the latter half of the latter half. If we were to use a year as our analogy, then we're in about October or November. Will we make it to the new year in one piece?

In this volume, our manga is behaving like a proper mystery, going into the summation, where we present solutions, about things, like who done it. Then that solution is rejected, so we present a new one, and then we repeat the process a few times; in the mystery world, we call that "multiple solutions."

In a long mystery that handles one case, there are multiple suspects; they arrest one, claiming that he or she is the killer (solution one), but then some evidence appears proving they didn't do it, so they direct their suspicion at someone else (solution two). It's a fairly common formula. Another common formula is when the police will arrest a certain person and put them on trial, claiming that they had motive and means, but the defense attorney or detective will find the real killer in order to prove the first person's innocence. So in a broad sense, you can't deny that a lot of mystery stories have multiple solutions.

The stories that best embody "multiple solution mysteries" are those where multiple solutions are presented, despite the extreme difficulty in doing so.

In this story, although it's not a classic closed-room or airtight-alibi mystery, we've assigned various conditions that our multiple solutions must satisfy, aside from merely explaining the mystery. One such condition is that an unspecified number of people must support a proposed solution (and of all the people who must support the solution, the readers are the most important). While I was writing the novel, I was often brought to my wits' end, wondering why I had to come up with a solution that fit all of these difficult criteria. Of course, it was my own fault—I bit off more than I could chew in my attempt to do something elaborate for my first novel in ages.



Then I was afraid to see how well people received it when it was published, and I did end up getting a lot of people saying, "I don't think you stuck the landing." So, of course, now that there are manga readers seeing this story for the first time, I'm scared to see how they feel about it. I'm nervous. There are two solutions left; I personally think I was very careful to make sure that these multiple solutions seemed inevitable.

Of course, when I talk like this, it sounds like I'm taking my mystery writing seriously, but I've already established that all four of my solutions are false; I have an immortal young man fighting a young girl (ghost) who brandishes a steel beam; and he's taking this young, busty girl (ghost) and mercilessly slamming her into the ground. So at this point I still can't help it if people are going to ask me, "And this is supposed to be a mystery story?"

The time may come when Katase-sensei, the manga's artist, will snap back to reality and ask, "What in the world kind of manga am I drawing?" I wonder what Sensei says when family and relatives ask, "So what kind of manga are you working on?"

Now, where will this battle of dueling fictions go in the next volume?

We're almost there—I hope you'll stay with us.

Kyo Shirodaira

BONUS MANGA
DECEMBER 23
KURÔ-SENPAI.
TOMORROW IS CHRISTMAS EVE.
WHERE SHOULD WE HAVE DINNER?
ぎゅっ
SQUEEZE
WE COULD GO SOMEWHERE AND HAVE A TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS ROAST BEEF OR CHICKEN.
OR WE COULD GO TO A RESTAURANT AT A LUXURY HOTEL.
THEN WE CAN RETIRE TO THE PENTHOUSE SUITE ON THE TOP FLOOR, AND INTOXICATE OURSELVES ON CHAMPAGNE BEFORE WE ENTWINE OUR FLESH AS ONE.
YOU'RE UNDERAGE.
キラ
SPARKLE
キラ
SPARKLE
AND, ACTUALLY, SORRY,
BUT I HAVE PLANS TOMORROW. I CAN'T GET OUT OF THEM.
WHA—?!

RIKKA-SAN IS DYING!
HE'S UP TO HIS NECK IN DEBT!
WHAT COULD BE SO IMPORTANT THAT HE CAN'T PUT HIS GIRLFRIEND FIRST ON CHRISTMAS EVE?
MURMUR
WH—
WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES WOULD YOU HAVE PLANNED?!
I HAVE WORK.
?
WOR—?

DECEMBER 24
CONVENIEN
stmas
YOU'RE A LIFESAVER, KURÔ-KUN.
COMING IN TO WORK ON CHRISTMAS.
MANAGER
I'LL SELL AS MUCH CHICKEN AS I CAN, SIR!
CLENCH
CLENCH
YEAH!
JINGLE
Come on in!
JANGLE
JINGLE
IT'S GREAT TO HAVE KURÔ-KUN. HE'S A FINE, GOOD-LOOKING YOUNG MAN.
...HM?
KURÔ-KUN.
HAS THAT GIRL BEEN THERE ALL THIS TIME?
DO YOU THINK SHE'S COLD?

OH.
IT'S IWANAGA.
WHAT? YOU KNOW HER?
UH, YES, SIR.
SHE'S MY GIRLFRIEND.
?!
YOUR GIRLFRIEND?!
WELCOME!
カラ
JINGLE
カラ
JINGLE
コロ
JANGLE
IS THIS OKAY?
SHOULD YOU REALLY BE IGNORING YOUR GIRLFRIEND?
ズ ZH
ズ ZH
I *TOLD* HER I HAVE WORK TODAY. I WONDER WHAT SHE WANTS.
ズ ZH
ズ ZH
YES...
um.
WELL, MAYBE SHE JUST HAPPENED TO BE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD...
ちら
GLANCE

GRRR
GRRR
GRRR
KURÔ-KUN, SHE'S STARING!
YOUR GIRLFRIEND IS REALLY STARING US DOWN!
JINGLE JANGLE
MERRY CHRISTMAS!
JINGLE JANGLE
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU REALLY PUT YOUR JOB BEFORE ME!
HE ASKED ME FIRST.
BESIDES, IF ANYTHING, WE'RE BUDDHIST, RIGHT?
AS IF THE GUY WHO STUFFED HIMSELF ON YÔKAI MEAT HAS ANY RIGHT TO TALK ABOUT RELIGION.

がさ
RUSTLE
ANYWAY, HERE IN JAPAN, CHRISTMAS MEANS...
MRPH!
も
MRPH
もぐ
MUNCH
...WHAT?!
TAI-YAKI?
ぱく
CHOMP
YOU THINK *THIS*...
もぐ
MUNCH
もぐ
MUNCH
...WILL MAKE UP FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE?
...LET'S BUY ANOTHER BEFORE WE GO HOME.
YOU'RE CHEAPER THAN I THOUGHT.
I want to buy a cake, too.

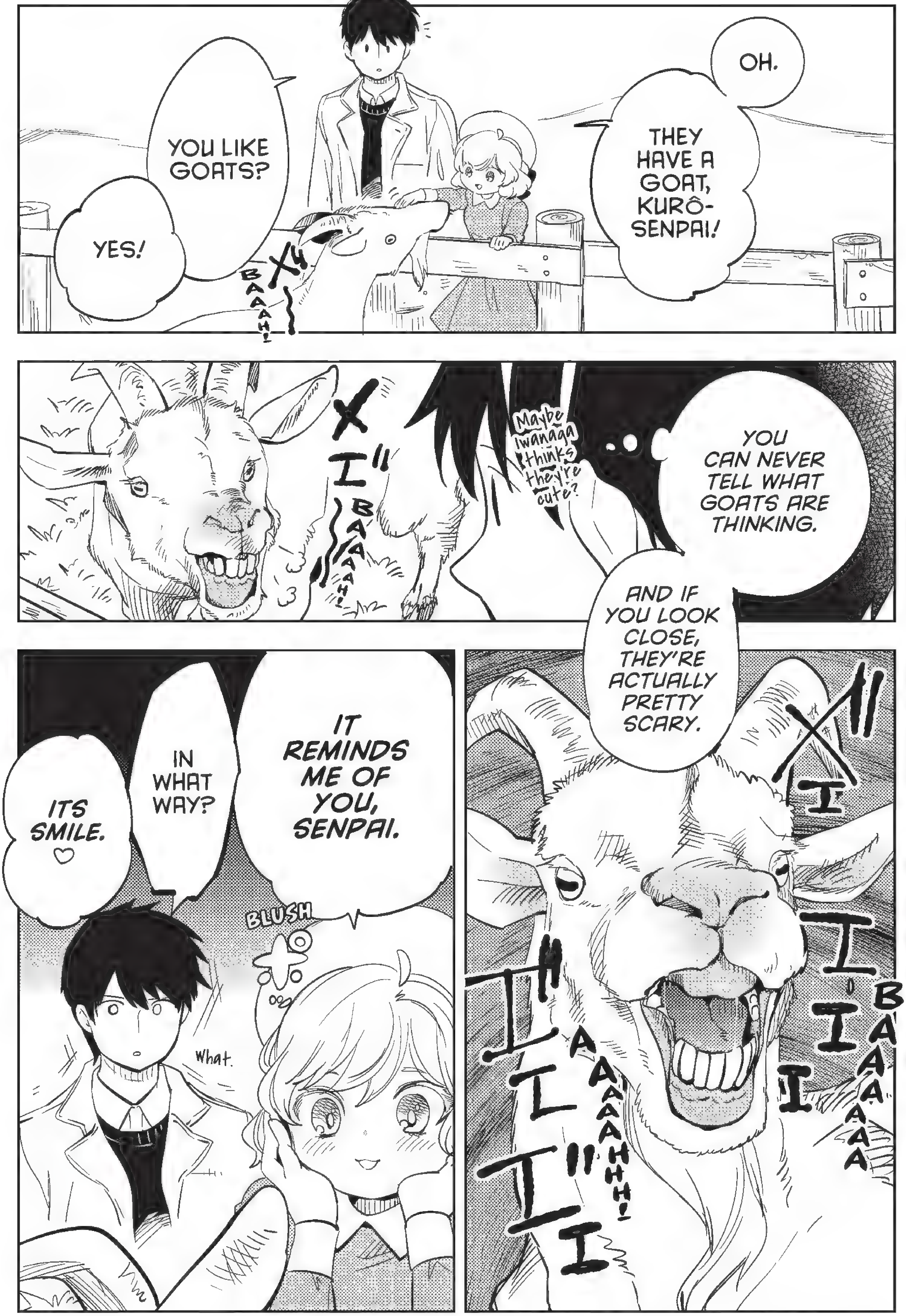
ACHOO!
DECEMBER 25
SNIFFLE ずび
ずび SNIFFLE
SHOULDN'T YOU GO HOME?
I THINK YOU SHOULD GO SEE A DOCTOR.
ちーん HONK
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ABANDONED ME IN THAT BLIZZARD.
YOU WILL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY BY NURSING ME BACK TO HEALTH WITH YOUR TENDER, LOVING CARE.
I DON'T HAVE A FEVER, SO ALL I NEED IS SOME MEDICINE AND I'LL BE FINE.

...WELL, I GUESS I SHOULD MAKE YOU SOMETHING TO EAT.
FWOOSH ば
さ
HEH HEH HEH.
I DON'T EVEN HAVE A COLD.
BUT CLAIMING I DO WORKS WONDERS!
SENPAI'S CONDITION PREVENTS HIM FROM EVER GETTING SICK...
...SO HE DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO LOOK AFTER SOMEONE WHO IS.
I saw on TV that green onions are good for colds.
HE PROBABLY THINKS HE JUST NEEDS TO DO WHATEVER THE SICK PERSON ASKS.
IN THAT CASE...

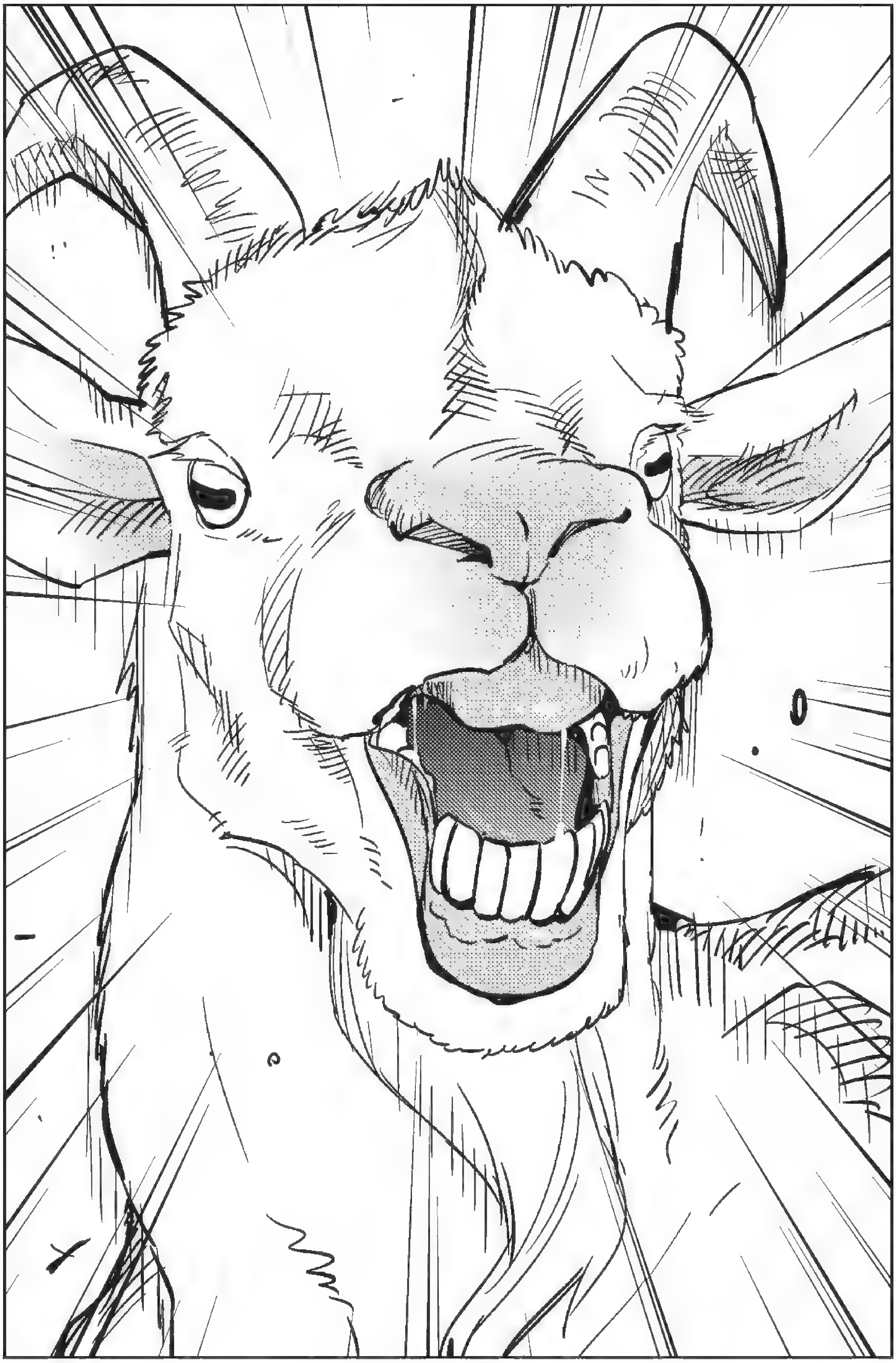
I REFUSE TO LET THIS CHANCE PASS ME BY!
I WILL CLING TO HIM WITH ALL OF MY POWER!
ドド THMP THMP
I CAN'T EAT THAT. YOU HAVE TO BLOW ON IT FIRST.
IF YOU SAY SO.
I CAN'T TAKE MY MEDICINE UNLESS YOU GIVE IT TO ME MOUTH-TO-MOUTH.
IF YOU SAY SO.
I CAN'T TAKE IT! I NEED YOU TO WARM ME WITH YOUR SKIN!
IF YOU SAY SO.
ドド THMP THMP
OOHHH...
MY LADY!!
I HEARD YOU HAVE CAUGHT A COLD!
FALLEN WARRIOR?!
YES, 'TIS I!
SPROING

GO AWAY!
It's just getting good!!
HOW CAN YOU SUGGEST SUCH A THING?
I, A HUMBLE FALLEN SOLDIER, WILL NURSE YOU BACK TO HEALTH!
THE OTHER SPECTRES WILL BE ARRIVING FORTHWITH!
NO!
I'M FINE, JUST GO!
FWP ばっ
AS YOU CAN SEE...
...I'M FIT AS A FIDDLE!!
...
...!
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME RICE PORRIDGE, TOO, FALLEN SOLDIER-SAN?
SEN-PAI...
DON'T MIND IF I DO.
SWAY ふら
AAH... AAAH-HHH!
ふら SWAY
THE END

"GOAT"

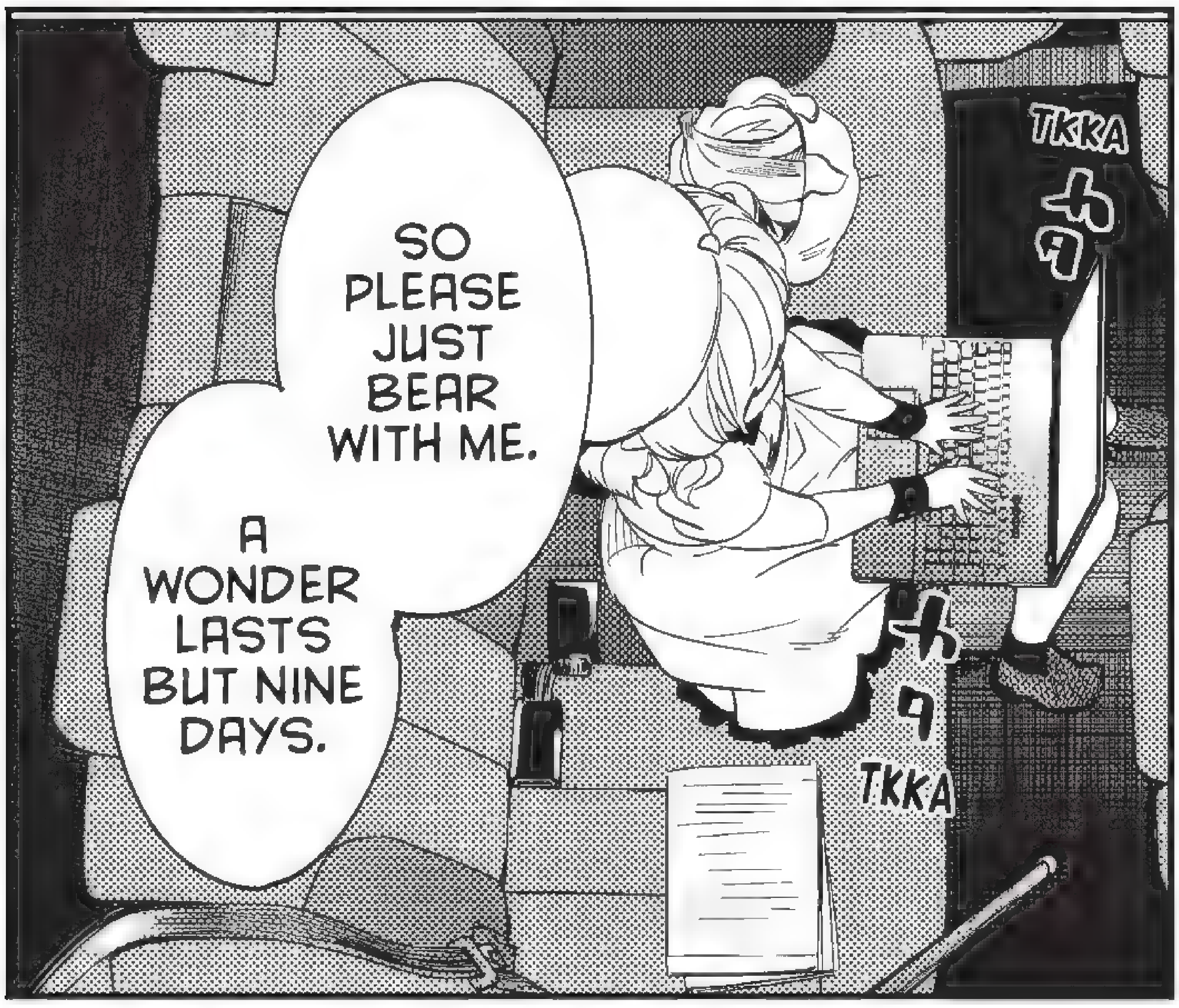

OH.
THEY HAVE A GOAT, KURÔ-SENPAI!
YOU LIKE GOATS?
YES!
BAAAH!
YOU CAN NEVER TELL WHAT GOATS ARE THINKING.
Maybe Iwanaga thinks they're cute?
BAAAAH!
AND IF YOU LOOK CLOSE, THEY'RE ACTUALLY PRETTY SCARY.
BAAAAAAAA
AAAAAAHHH!
IT REMINDS ME OF YOU, SENPAI.
IN WHAT WAY?
ITS SMILE. ♡
BLUSH
What.

GOAT TRIVIA



GOATS DON'T HAVE ANY FRONT TEETH ON THEIR UPPER JAW!

TRANSLATION NOTES

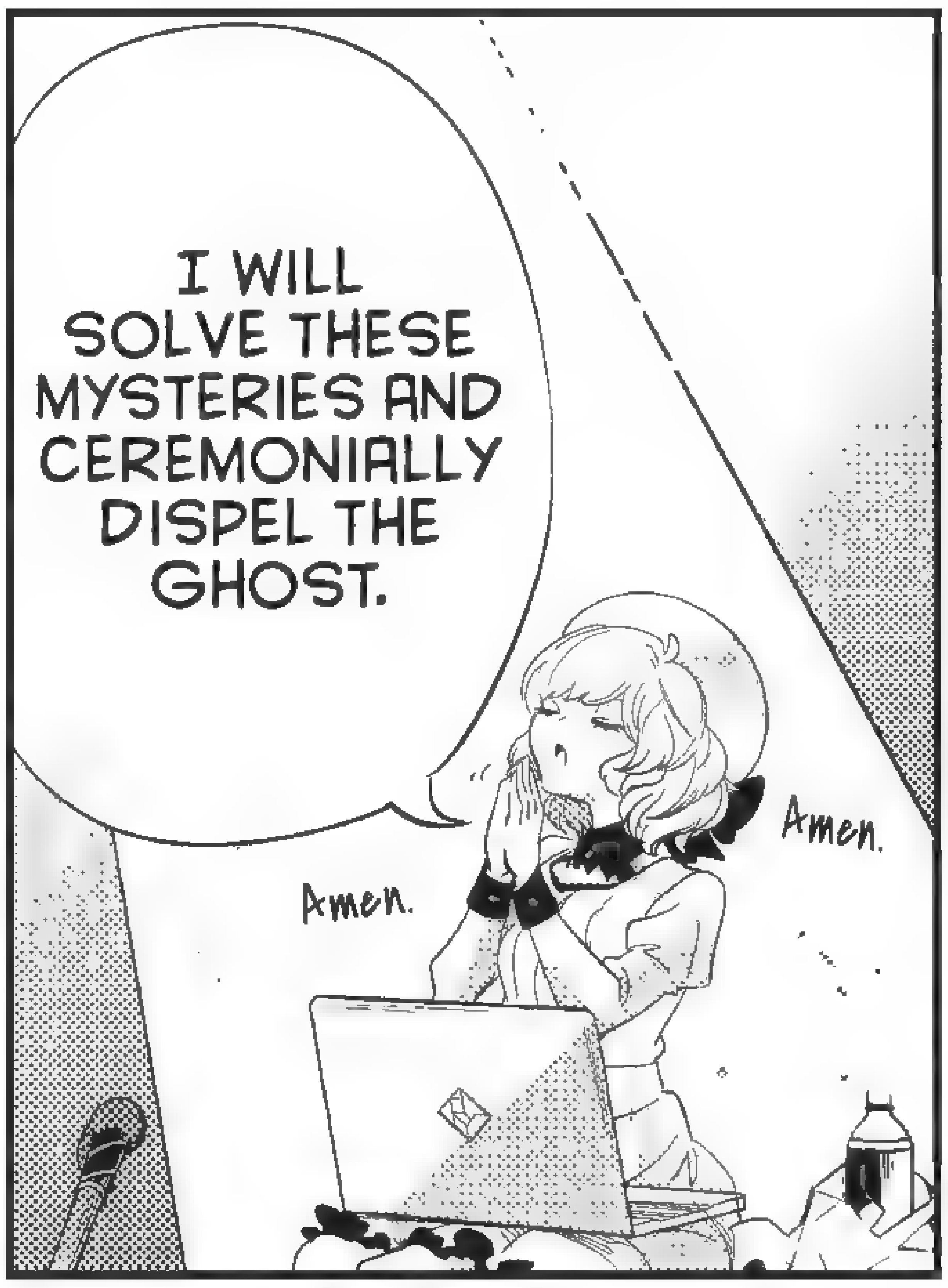

TKKA
SO PLEASE JUST BEAR WITH ME.
A WONDER LASTS BUT NINE DAYS.
TKKA

A wonder lasts but nine days, page 57

This phrase refers to the fact that the whole affair will blow over before long. The nine-day version is more common in the English-speaking world, but the Japanese idiom is more accurately translated as, "Gossip lasts 75 days," which is roughly a fifth of the year.

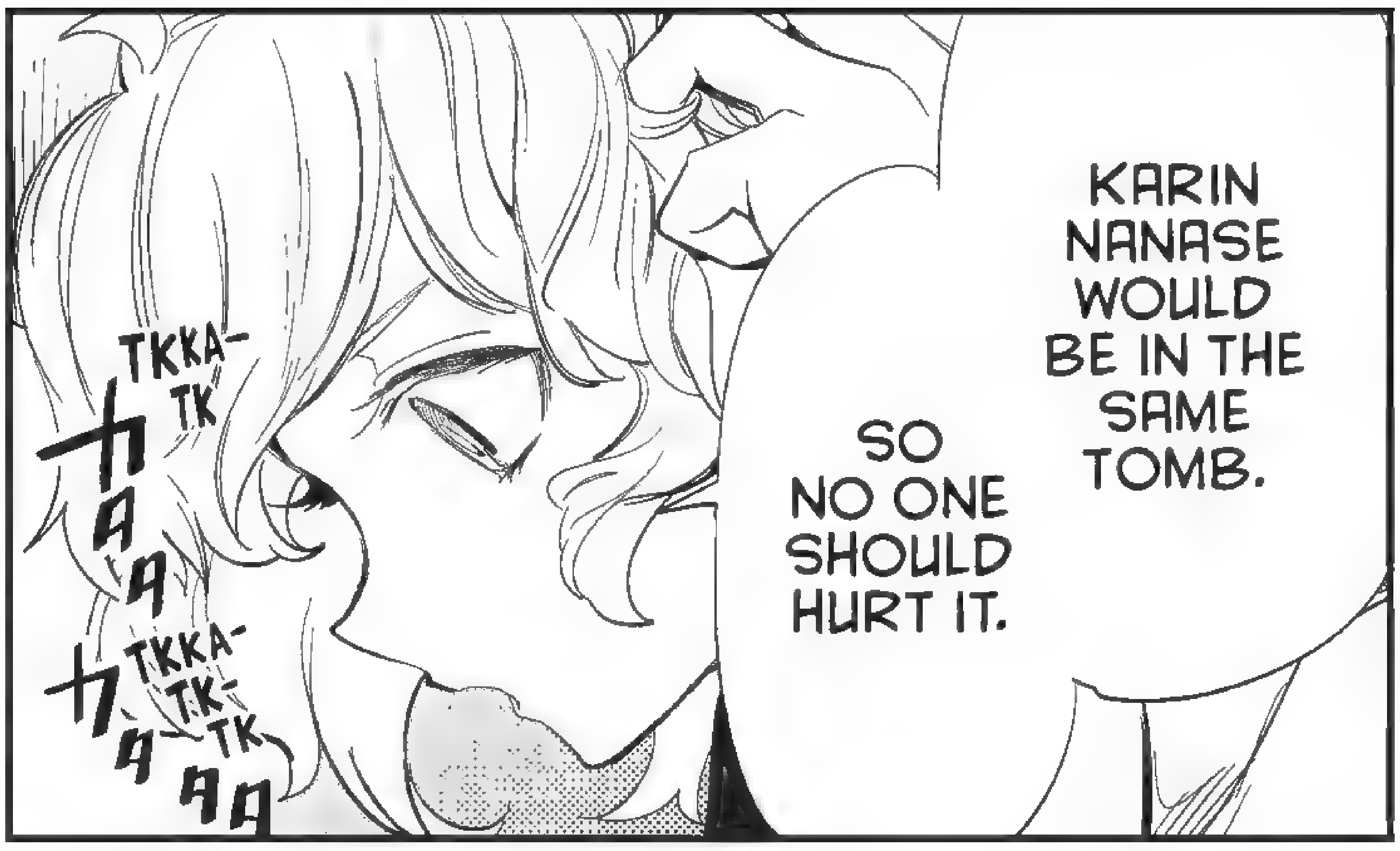
Amen, page 97

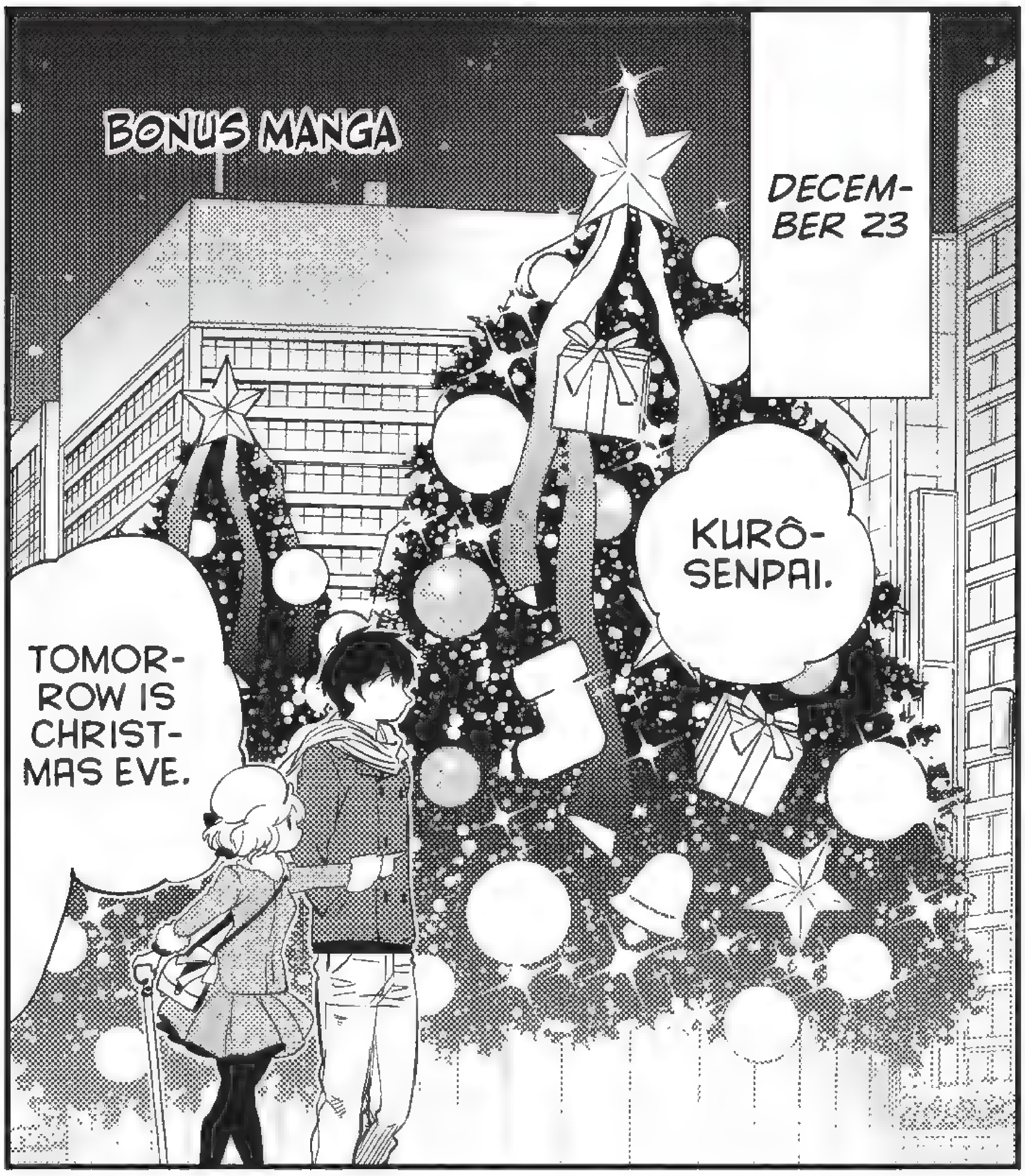
The translators chose a word here that is generally associated with prayers in the West, but the reader may reasonably expect that Kotoko used a more Far-Eastern prayer. Specifically, she said *namu*, which is a shortened version of a Buddhist chant that means, "I trust all to Amitabha." Amitabha is the principal Buddha in the Pure Land Sect of Buddhism, and since Buddhism is one of the majority religions of Japan, Kotoko would naturally commend Karin Nanase's soul to a Buddhist higher power.


I WILL SOLVE THESE MYSTERIES AND CEREMONIALLY DISPEL THE GHOST.
Amen.
Amen.

Karin Nanase would be in the same tomb, page 125

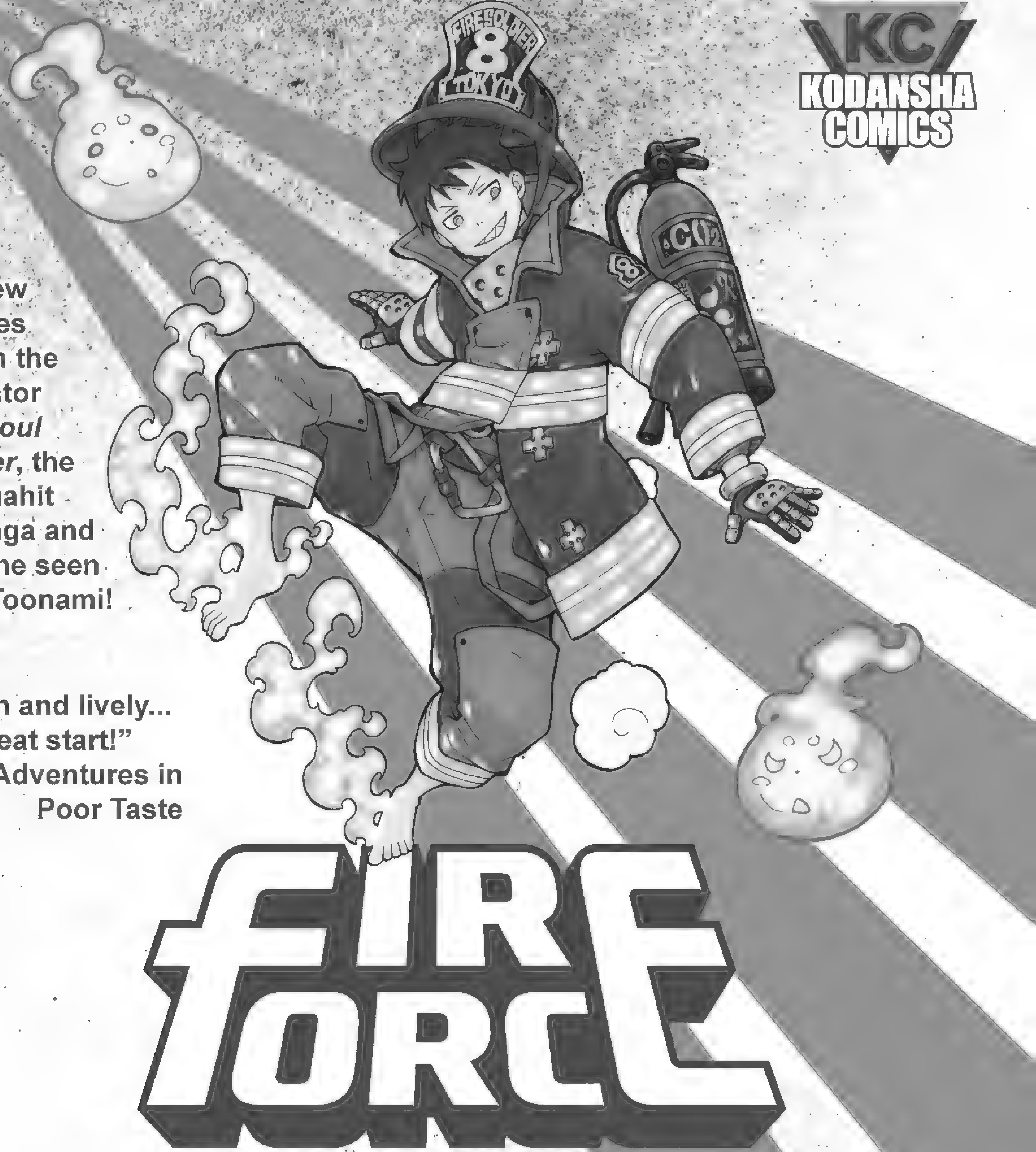
In Japan, the bodies of the deceased are usually cremated. The ashes are placed in urns, which are then kept in a chamber under a single tombstone shared by a family. Ergo, Karin Nanase and her father would have been buried in the same grave.


KARIN NANASE WOULD BE IN THE SAME TOMB.
SO NO ONE SHOULD HURT IT.
TKKA-TK
TKKA-TK-TK


DECEMBER 23
BONUS MANGA
KURÔ-SENPAI.
TOMORROW IS CHRISTMAS EVE.

Christmas Eve, page 154

In Japan, Christmas Eve is celebrated as a romantic holiday for people to spend a lovely evening with their significant others. It is also a family holiday with many traditions borrowed from the West (although the turkey is replaced with chicken), so if someone is single, he or she isn't consigned to a miserable night, but in general, the night is treated very much like Valentine's Day in the West.



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-Adventures in Poor Taste

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By Atsushi Ohkubo

The city of Tokyo is plagued by a deadly phenomenon: spontaneous human combustion! Luckily, a special team is there to quench the inferno: The Fire Force! The fire soldiers at Special Fire Cathedral 8 are about to get a unique addition. Enter Shinra, a boy who possesses the power to run at the speed of a rocket, leaving behind the famous "devil's footprints" (and destroying his shoes in the process). Can Shinra and his colleagues discover the source of this strange epidemic before the city burns to ashes?

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Cells at Work!
はたらく細胞

By Akane Shimizu

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The Black Museum The Ghost and the Lady

By Kazuhiro Fujita

Deep in Scotland Yard in London sits an evidence room dedicated to the greatest mysteries of British history. In this "Black Museum" sits a misshapen hunk of lead—two bullets fused together—the key to a wartime encounter between Florence Nightingale, the mother of modern nursing, and a supernatural Man in Grey. This story is unknown to most scholars of history, but a special guest of the museum will tell the tale of *The Ghost and the Lady*...

Praise for Kazuhiro Fujita's *Ushio and Tora*

"A charming revival that combines a classic look with modern depth and pacing... **Essential viewing both for curmudgeons and new fans alike.**" — Anime News Network

"**GREAT!** The first episode of *Ushio and Tora* captures the essence of '90s anime." — IGN

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HAPPINESS

ハピネス

By **Shuzo Oshimi**

From the creator of *The Flowers of Evil*

Nothing interesting is happening in Makoto Ozaki's first year of high school. HIs life is a series of quiet humiliations: low-grade bullies, unreliable friends, and the constant frustration of his adolescent lust. But one night, a pale, thin girl knocks him to the ground in an alley and offers him a choice.

Now everything is different. Daylight is searingly bright. Food tastes awful. And worse than anything is the terrible, consuming thirst...

Praise for Shuzo Oshimi's *The Flowers of Evil*

"A shockingly readable story that vividly—one might even say queasily—evokes the fear and confusion of discovering one's own sexuality. Recommended." —The Manga Critic

"A page-turning tale of sordid middle school blackmail." —Otaku USA Magazine

"A stunning new horror manga." —Third Eye Comics

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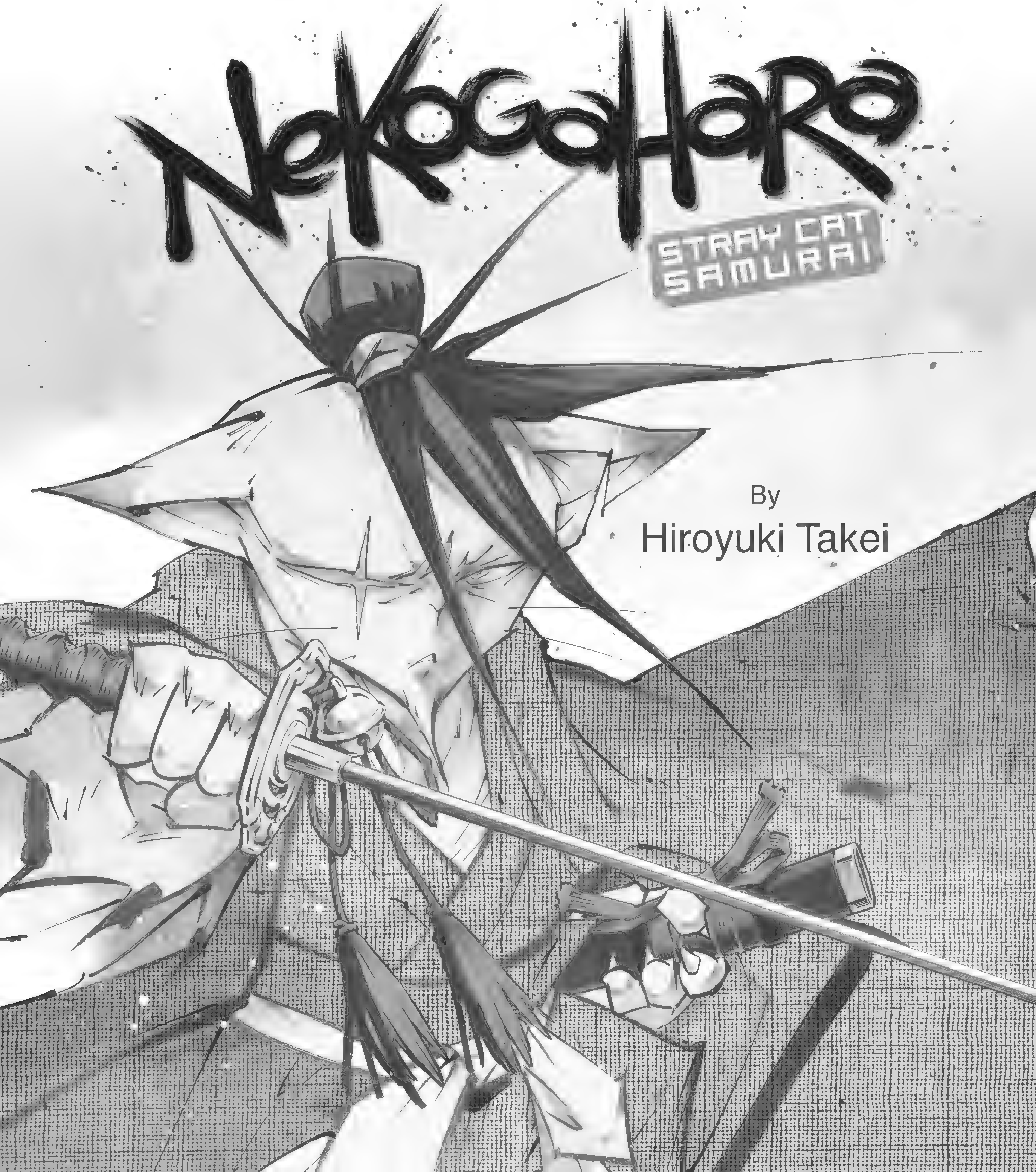
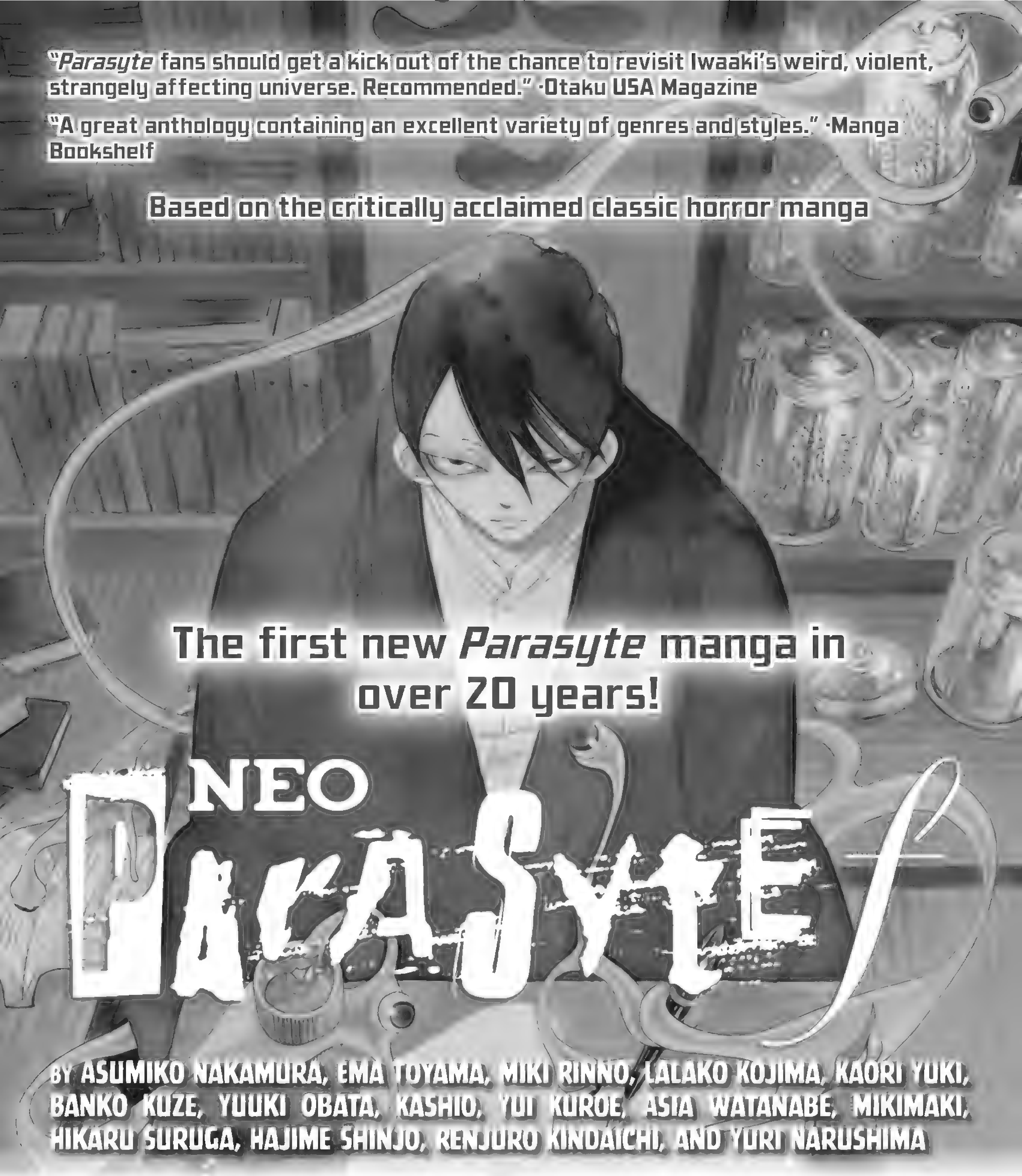
© Hiroyuki Takei/Kodansha Ltd. All rights reserved.

New action series from Hiroyuki Takei, creator of the classic shonen franchise Shaman King!

In medieval Japan, a bell hanging on the collar is a sign that a cat has a master. Norachiyo's bell hangs from his katana sheath, but he is nonetheless a stray — a ronin. This one-eyed cat samurai travels across a dishonest world, cutting through pretense and deception with his blade.



By
Hiroyuki Takei


"*Parasyte* fans should get a kick out of the chance to revisit Iwaaki's weird, violent, strangely affecting universe. Recommended." -Otaku USA Magazine

"A great anthology containing an excellent variety of genres and styles." -Manga Bookshelf

Based on the critically acclaimed classic horror manga

The first new *Parasyte* manga in over 20 years!

NEO PARASYTE f

BY ASUMIKO NAKAMURA, EMA TOYAMA, MIKI RINNO, LALAKO KOJIMA, KAORI YUKI, BANKO KUZE, YUUKI OBATA, KASHIO, YUI KUROE, ASIA WATANABE, MIKIMAKI, HIKARU SURUGA, HAJIME SHINJO, RENJURO KINDAICHI, AND YURI NARUSHIMA

A collection of chilling new *Parasyte* stories from Japan's top shojo artists!

Parasites: shape-shifting aliens whose only purpose is to assimilate with and consume the human race... but do these monsters have a different side? A parasite becomes a prince to save his romance-obsessed female host from a dangerous stalker. Another hosts a cooking show, in which the real monsters are revealed. These and 13 more stories, from some of the greatest shojo manga artists alive today, together make up a chilling, funny, and entertaining tribute to one of manga's horror classics!

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> "I'm pleasantly surprised to find modern shojo using cross-dressing as a dramatic device to deliver social commentary... Recommended."
>
> -Otaku USA Magazine

the prince in his dark days

By **Hico Yamanaka**

A drunkard for a father, a household of poverty... For 17-year-old Atsuko, misfortune is all she knows and believes in. Until one day, a chance encounter with Itaru–the wealthy heir of a huge corporation–changes everything. The two look identical, uncannily so. When Itaru curiously goes missing, Atsuko is roped into being his stand-in. There, in his shoes, Atsuko must parade like a prince in a palace. She encounters many new experiences, but at what cost...?

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Having lost his wife, high school teacher Kōhei Inuzuka is doing his best to raise his young daughter Tsumugi as a single father. He's pretty bad at cooking and doesn't have a huge appetite to begin with, but chance brings his little family together with one of his students, the lonely Kotori. The three of them are anything but comfortable in the kitchen, but the healing power of home cooking might just work on their grieving hearts.

"This season's number-one feel-good anime!" —Anime News Network

"A beautifully-drawn story about comfort food and family and grief. Recommended." —Otaku USA Magazine

sweetness & lightning
By Gido Amagakure
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In/Spectre 5

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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